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Hafa Adai!

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GAO: NMI economy would take a hit

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The investigative arm of the U.S. Congress believes the CNMI's economy would take a huge hit if all foreign workers are removed from the labor market.

David Gootnick, International Affairs and Trade director of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, said in his testimony read in last week's U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee hearing that foreign workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Worker visa or CW1 program comprised 45 percent of the CNMI's labor force in 2015.

"GAO's preliminary economic analysis projects a 26- to 62-percent reduction in the CNMI's 2015 gross domestic product—[based on] the most recent GDP [data] available," said Gootnick.

Committee chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) presided over the hearing, which was held in connection with

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OPA audit: CUC board unable to succeed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

An audit of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. states that its financial standings are better off without the "presence of an active board" and the only way for it to succeed is to gut its current structure and transform it into a completely new entity.

To that, the CUC board had no comments.

The audit, conducted by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, was released yesterday, citing CUC's incapability to function as an independent public agency.

"History has clearly shown that a politically appointed board is unable or unwilling

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First place: GTC Elementary School — YUUKI NISHIDA

Second place: Agape Christian School — YUUKI NISHIDA

Third place: Garapan Elementary School — YUUKI NISHIDA

GTC tops Academic Challenge Bowl

By YUUKI NISHIDA
thisisyuuki@gmail.com
STUDENT REPORTER

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School team reigned against 13 other elementary schools at the 22nd Annual Academic Challenge Bowl last Saturday.

The event, hosted by the Marianas High School's National Honor Society, drew a crowd of over 150 students, parents, and educators.

Each team consisted of five members, with three assigned to compete and two as alternates. Substitutions were allowed but only after each round.

The competition consisted of three rounds—easy, medium, and hard—and each school competed for the most points. Agape Christian School and GTC were tied and barged into a tiebreaker round to compete for first prize.

The tiebreaker question

See GTC on Page 4

Castle Projects OK'd to occupy barracks

» Allowed to house illegal construction workers for humanitarian reasons

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Castle Projects (CNMI) LLC, a company that owns the renovated former garment factory in Tanapag that housed construction workers, including illegal aliens, for the multi-million Imperial Pacific International LLC's ongoing casino and resort project in Garapan, was able to obtain on Friday a certificate of occupancy from the Department of Public Works.

Castle Projects counsel Michael Dotts also dis-

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YOUNGSTYLE
This first Tuesday of the month, *Saipan Tribune* has a Youngstyle section.
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The 2017 Honda Civic hatchback is one of the roomiest compact hatches.
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Local

OAG says Ogumoro threatened, intimidated witness

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General alleged yesterday that former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, who is on trial on corruption charges, threatened and intimidated a witness over the weekend.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley urged Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who is presiding over the jury trial, to revoke Ogumoro's bail and admit his intimidation of William "Bill" Rathburn as "evidence of consciousness of guilt."

Rathburn is a former DPS information technology network administrator who testified for the government that on October 2012 Ogumoro picked him up from his house to check a DPS computer. He said he was shocked when Ogumoro instead brought him to True North Bar in Garapan, where the DPS computer was inside the bar's office.

Open Mic Night caps poetry month

Participants in last Friday's Open Mic Night at the Shack have their picture taken. BEA CABRERA

The Shack Restaurant on Saipan hosted a Open Mic Night last Friday, capping the celebration of April 2017 as National Poetry Month. The event was open to members of the public, who read poems—original or not—of their favorite poets.

"There is definitely a sense of art on island and it might be more in sculpture and painting but there are local poets that write about issues and culture that have been published in the mainland. We would like to cultivate that segment and to create awareness how poetry is vital in one's life and ultimately in one's culture," said organizer NMC Languages and Humanities instructor Adam Walsh.

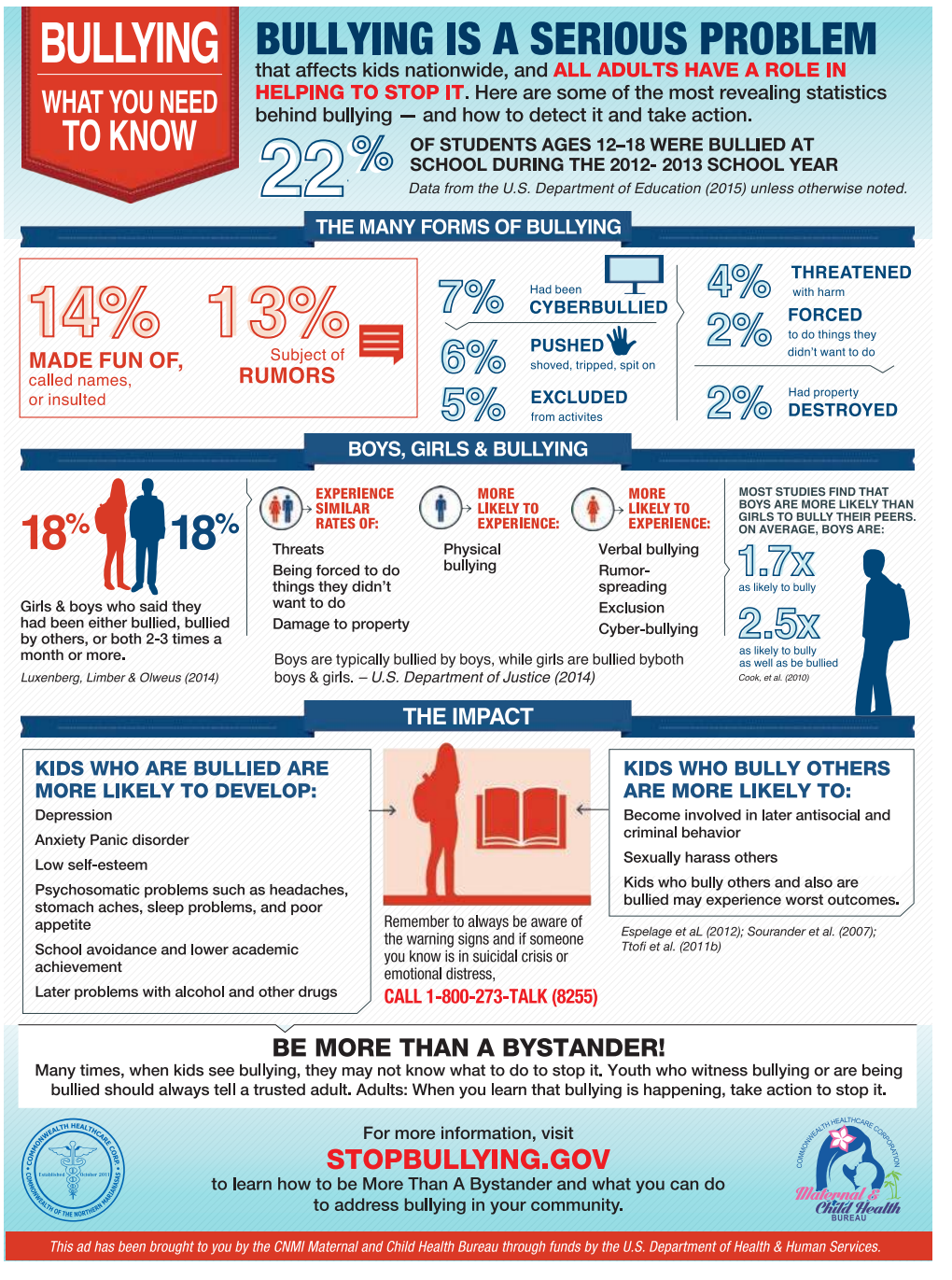
Anisha Ramirez, 16, a student at Marianas High School, read a couple of her original poems. "I love writing and listening to people who write their stories through poetry. I love putting my feelings and thoughts into writing. So far, writing poems is a hobby but I can see myself writing poems tirelessly and going to Open Mic Night to read them."

Simoun Neccesito, 22, a Business Management and Accounting student at the Northern Marianas College, said, "My style of poetry is slam poetry. A friend from Guam got me into it. Poetry slam is spoken word poetry and I was exposed to a lot of poets. My favorites are Phil Kaye and Rudy Francisco. I like drawing and music but I cannot get a sense of creativity to make them, unlike when I write my poems, [when] my style and originality comes out. To date, I have three books filled with my original poems."

The celebration of April as National Poetry Month got started by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 to foster appreciation for poetry. The month has since been celebrated by schools, universities and by anyone at any age, gender and lifestyle who are passionate about the art of poetry.

"At present, NMC is working hard to maintain and promote arts in the college, to continue to promote expression through poetry. There is also a plan to publish a literary magazine that is produced by students in the coming months." Walsh added.

Friday's event was sponsored by NMC. ***(Bea Cabrera)***


BULLYING
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
BULLYING IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM
that affects kids nationwide, and ALL ADULTS HAVE A ROLE IN HELPING TO STOP IT. Here are some of the most revealing statistics behind bullying — and how to detect it and take action.
22% OF STUDENTS AGES 12–18 WERE BULLIED AT SCHOOL DURING THE 2012- 2013 SCHOOL YEAR
Data from the U.S. Department of Education (2015) unless otherwise noted.
THE MANY FORMS OF BULLYING
14% MADE FUN OF, called names, or insulted
13% Subject of RUMORS
7% Had been CYBERBULLIED
6% PUSHED shoved, tripped, spit on
5% EXCLUDED from activites
4% THREATENED with harm
2% FORCED to do things they didn't want to do
2% Had property DESTROYED
BOYS, GIRLS & BULLYING
18% 18%
Girls & boys who said they had been either bullied, bullied by others, or both 2-3 times a month or more.
Luxenberg, Limber & Olweus (2014)
EXPERIENCE SIMILAR RATES OF:
Threats
Being forced to do things they didn't want to do
Damage to property
MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE:
Physical bullying
MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE:
Verbal bullying
Rumor-spreading
Exclusion
Cyber-bullying
Boys are typically bullied by boys, while girls are bullied byboth boys & girls. – U.S. Department of Justice (2014)
MOST STUDIES FIND THAT BOYS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN GIRLS TO BULLY THEIR PEERS. ON AVERAGE, BOYS ARE:
1.7x as likely to bully
2.5x as likely to bully as well as be bullied
Cook, et al. (2010)
THE IMPACT
KIDS WHO ARE BULLIED ARE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP:
Depression
Anxiety Panic disorder
Low self-esteem
Psychosomatic problems such as headaches, stomach aches, sleep problems, and poor appetite
School avoidance and lower academic achievement
Later problems with alcohol and other drugs
Remember to always be aware of the warning signs and if someone you know is in suicidal crisis or emotional distress,
CALL 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
KIDS WHO BULLY OTHERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO:
Become involved in later antisocial and criminal behavior
Sexually harass others
Kids who bully others and also are bullied may experience worst outcomes.
Espelage et al. (2012); Sourander et al. (2007); Ttofi et al. (2011b)
BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER!
Many times, when kids see bullying, they may not know what to do to stop it. Youth who witness bullying or are being bullied should always tell a trusted adult. Adults: When you learn that bullying is happening, take action to stop it.
For more information, visit
STOPBULLYING.GOV
to learn how to be More Than A Bystander and what you can do to address bullying in your community.
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Tracking system for CW permits

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services should have implemented a tracking system for CW1 permits issued each fiscal year, preventing abuses of the program, according to Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

"Sometimes, the predicaments that we experience with the CW1 program are basically systemic in nature. We have cases where employers apply for permits but then after approval sometimes there's no longer a need to bring the employee here anymore," said Demapan.

CW1 permits, the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant visa program, are issued to foreign workers and allows them to work in the Commonwealth for a year. Employers renew their workers annually and the program would end on Dec. 31, 2019.

Demapan, a former chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said there were previous cases where foreign laborers hired to work in the CNMI no longer pursue their employment once USCIS releases their permits.

"So these are CW1 slots that are, in the eyes of Homeland Security, are being utilized. The problem is, there's no tracking system whether the actual body of the employee is here on the ground once the slot is approved," said Demapan.

He added businesses are forced to temporarily send their employees home once the numerical limit is reached each fiscal year. The cap was hit twice early in 2016 and 2017.

"Now that we were able to see that there are slots that are pretty much being held in the air, these slots could have otherwise been diverted to employees who are undergoing the renewal process."

"We stand to lose those slots to the detriment of other businesses. Now we are seeing employees that have been here for years having to exit because the slots are not available," Demapan said.

Construction laborers who only work for six months or less is another predicament the CW1 visa program faces, said Demapan.

He added that once these construction workers go back to China, that again wastes the slots, which could have been used by other essential workers like those in the healthcare profession.

Demapan believes those in construction should fall under a different category in order not to use up the limited CW1 slots every fiscal year.

Drug court has 12 participants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Drug Court has 12 active participants and seven from the first batch will graduate this year, according to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Kim-Tenorio said they have 12 more awaiting clinical assessments and they have 20 or more waiting to be entertained.

» **May is Drug Court Month; May 1 to 5 is Law Week**

"So we have a long list," said the judge in an interview shortly after Friday's proclamation signing declaring May as CNMI Drug Court Month and May 1 to 5 as Law Week.

Kim-Tenorio said that Drug Court Month is very important because it raises awareness in the community so that they understand exactly what the drug court is doing, and what participants do so they get continued support.

"This is celebrated nationwide," the judge said, adding that the national association of drug court professionals sent them a packet for drug court activities and provided the language for the proclamation, among other things.

Kim-Tenorio said it ideally it takes 18 months for a participant to graduate. Here, it's a year and six months and three random drug tests every week for 18 months.

"So these people will be drug tested more than you and I will be in our entire life. In addition, they do individual counseling, group counseling. They attend any AA meeting. They volunteer in our community. They do journaling. They do group activities. They have more therapy," she said.

There are now 3,142 treatment courts nationwide.

The judge noted in the proclamation that 75 percent of treatment court graduates are not re-arrested.

"Treatment courts are the cornerstone of justice reform sweeping the nation," Kim-Tenorio said in the proclamation.

Superior Court deputy clerk I Kristy R. Diaz read the drug court proclamation during the ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court. Drug court manager Ta Ann Kabua discussed the future of the program.

With respect to the Law Week proclamation, acting

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US govt seeks approval for three CUC projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to approve three Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects with a total budget of $5.05 million.

The work for each project is to be completed primarily by Gilbane Federal as CUC's engineering and environmental management company.

Bradley R. O'Brien, senior attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, said the first amendment increases the funding ceiling for some CUC projects.

O'Brien said the year 2017 funding ceiling will increase by $258,000, with $204,000 to be borne by grant funding and $54,000 expected to be borne by the court registry.

He said the new funding ceiling is $796,272, which includes fiscal years 2015 and 2016 expenditures.

Another project relates to Tank 103 repair and secondary containment repair at CUC's Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

O'Brien said the budget for this is $4.,019 million and is expected to be funded by grant funding. The work includes tank coating repairs, as well as repairs to the secondary containment area walls around Tank 103 and Tank 102.

O'Brien said Tank 103 cleaning and inspection has already been completed under prior funding. Tank 103, an aboveground tank, stores diesel for electric power production at CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. Tank 102 is a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank that replaced Tank 010, which has been found to be a source of pollution and is non-repairable.

Pertaining to task order 10, it relates to waste management at Power Plants 1 and 2 and CUC's Rota Power Plant.

O'Brien said the project includes evaluating waste management systems for the three power plants, creating waste management plans, and the engineering and installation of physical improvements to these waste management systems.

He said the budget for the project is $777,000, and is expected to be funded by grant funding.

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CASTLE

From Page 1

closed that the U.S. government allowed Castle Projects to let illegal aliens live in their housing without any fear of prosecution for humanitarian reasons.

Dotts gave a tour of Building B and other buildings of the Castle Projects barrack last Friday to show the improvements and the compliance made as a result of court action brought by DPW and the Office of the Attorney General.

With DPW issuing the certificate of occupancy on Friday, Castle Projects property manager Daniel Castro said they will move 60 to 70 construction workers back to Building B by yesterday, Monday.

Dotts said that Friday's final inspection focused on the fire alarms.

"We have a brand new fire alarm system. It gives a warning throughout the housing but also transmits a warning to the main security guard center. So if there is fire in the building or smoke in the building, everyone would be notified. It was tested. It worked fine. DPW was there," he pointed out.

Dotts said Building B is now certified to house 80 people. He said they can now move people housed at Buildings C and D to B.

The lawyer said if there are other people residing in other property that is unsafe, they will take them to Building B.

"Construction workers, tourist workers who came here improperly, for humanitarian reasons we want to take care of them. So we will take care of them at Building B. We will feed them in the kitchen. It's good for them, it's good for everybody," he said.

Dotts said they have been working with the federal government and have allowed U.S. Labor to do interviews inside their commissary.

Dotts disclosed that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been at Castle Projects.

"This is a good place where government officials who need to meet the workers can come and find the workers," he said.

Dotts said the information is readily available to the government. Under the system, he said, the government would know where to find all the people who needs to get repatriated, who needs to get their wages paid, or who needs to be taken cared of.

In regards to Castle Projects allowing the illegal aliens to stay there, Dotts said it is illegal to harbor an illegal alien, but they will not be charged for harboring illegal aliens who they are harboring right now.

"If new ones snuck in, then we will be in trouble. But the ones who are already on the island if we take care of them we're not going to be charged for taking care of them," Dotts said.

The lawyer said he heard that the illegal aliens include 150 from Beilida Overseas, 89 from MCC International, and 50 or more who are claiming to be MCC but may not be MCC.

Beilida Overseas, MCC International, Gold Mantis, and another company, who are either contractors or subcontractors for the casino/resort project, are housing their workers at Castle Projects.

Dotts said some workers had no charges and no allegations of unpaid wages.

Dotts said the Castle Projects' property used to be Top Fashion Garment that had more than 300 workers.

The lawyer said the factory closed down in 2003 or 2004.

In 2015, he said, Castle Projects, which is owned by Taiwanese investors, was looking at Saipan because they knew that there was going to be a construction boom here.

Castle Projects purchased the property, renovated it, and got the zoning permit.

Dotts said the company improved building after building and got the proper permits.

For Building B, Dotts said that things got overlooked and people were already living in that building, and no occupancy permit was applied for it.

"That was the court issue," said Dotts, explaining that the resolution of the court issue was to get everybody out of Building B until they get an occupancy permit.

Next up for an occupancy permit is Building A, where the second flood can house 140 employees.

Dotts said there was a period when there was no control at the property and nobody was doing the cleanup of the place.

"We just had too many people here who didn't care, who just threw their trash, dumped cooking oil over the fence, improper stuff like that," he said.

Dotts said last Feb. 28, there was a change in management at Castle Projects and the new management took control, hired a security contractor and a cleanup crew.

Dotts said Buildings D and C have expired occupancy permits that are up for renewals. "There is no reason they do not get renewed because nothing has changed," he said.

Dotts said the Office of the Attorney General attached to the DPW's complaint pictures of different housing and not Castle Projects' housing.

Dotts said DPW also made an issue about a leaning wall.

Dotts said the leaning wall is actually not in their property, but it's on public land and is leaning on the adjacent property.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GAO

From Page 1

House Resolution 339 or the NMI Economic Expansion Act introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

At 3.5 percent, the CNMI's GDP showed a 0.7-percent increase in 2015, from 2.8 in 2014, making it the fourth straight year the Commonwealth's economy increased after years of slump that included a -17.5 percent performance in 2009.

The CNMI's GDP has also jumped by $86 million in 2015. The numbers are expected to show positive signs as soon as the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis releases its latest compiled data for last year.

New investments, like the construction of the casino-hotel Imperial Pacific Resort, contributed to that renewed economic activity, along with a continued increase in tourist arrivals from China and Korea.

Gootnick said demand for foreign workers surpassed the available slots for the CW1 program's numerical limit, with many of those approved being Chinese nationals, especially those in the construction positions. The CW-1 numerical limit was reached early in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

"The construction of a new casino in Saipan is a key factor in this demand. Meanwhile, by 2019, plans for additional hotels, casinos, and other projects estimate needing thousands of new employees," said Gootnick.

"When the CW-1 permit programs ends in 2019, GAO's preliminary analysis of available data shows that the unemployed domestic workforce is estimated at 2,386 in 2016. [It] will be well below the CNMI's expected demand for labor."

He added that one solution is for CNMI employers and other businesses to hire or recruit U.S.-eligible workers from other U.S. states and territories, or from freely associated states like the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Another solution GAO sees is the recommendation made by the U.S. Department of the Interior in April 2010 for Congress to consider new legislation that would give permanent residency or improved status to foreign workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years.

The same recommendation was included in the 902 report that was submitted by both the CNMI and federal government panels after last year's series of 902 Talks.

The Interior Department estimates 15,816 individuals would qualify to apply for long-term resident status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The options Congress could consider were U.S. citizenship, permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship (per the normal provisions of INA relating to naturalization), with the five-year minimum residence spent anywhere in the U.S. or its territories, or permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship with the five-year minimum residence spent in the CNMI.

GAO is the investigative arm of Congress that is charged with examining matters relating to the receipt and payment of public funds.

OPA

From Page 1

to exercise the necessary fiduciary responsibility for CUC to succeed," the audit stated.

In order to succeed, OPA recommended that CUC's corporate structure be revised into a completely new entity.

"For the new entity to be successful, it must have the political and financial freedom to chart an independent course in conjunction with oversight from the consumer/electorate," the audit stated.

The audit looked at CUC documents from its creation back in 1985 up to the present.

The OPA tried to obtain comments from CUC about the draft audit in mid-March, giving CUC a chance to defend itself or correct any mistakes in the audit report within 30 days.

Despite a statement last April 17, 2017, that CUC would ask for an extension, OPA proceeded to publish the audit without comments from CUC. Whether OPA received a request for extension from CUC was not indicated in the report.

"OPA provided a draft copy of the audit report to CUC on March 17, 2017. We did not receive any comments from CUC within the stipulated 30-day response period," wrote the audit.

According to the audit report, OPA is required to semi-annually report on the audited agency's compliance with OPA recommendations and will be in touch with CUC in June and December until the recommendation is resolved.

Based on findings by OPA, the agency recommended that CUC revise its corporate form, citing the case of neighboring islands or similar islands such as Guam and Hawaii.

OPA recommended that CUC be revised as a cooperative, municipal corporation, or a privatized entity.

Under a cooperative corporate structure, ratepayers would hold an election of board members while profit obtained would be paid back to the users in the form of dividends. This model ensures distinct roles for the board and management, an issue the current CUC corporate structure has been facing, according to the OPA audit. The audit states this structure has been adopted by Hawaii's Kauai electrical cooperative.

The municipal corporation is a structure that is fairly similar to CUC's current structure and allows for the direct election of the board members while ensuring greater independence when dealing with debtors. This structure also reduces external influences while encouraging apolitical decision making of management. This structure has been successful in Guam.

CUC as a privatized entity was only considered by OPA because of its legality. Since the corporation would be selling assets and transferring authority to a private company, OPA predicts that CUC rates would spike if a privatized corporate structure is to be adopted since private companies require a return of investment. According to the audit, the legislative mandated value of the assets amount to an unrealistic $250 million.

The OPA audit said the transition from one structure to another would require a period of time needed to research, educate, and debate over the best model or hybrid models to adopt for CUC.

Torres on CUC board

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued a statement to address the retention or termination of CUC board members yesterday, but due to other priorities, Torres was unable to meet with board members last week.

In the statement, Torres failed to arrive at a decision regarding the termination of the CUC board due to an invitation by U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) to testify for House Resolution 339, or the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, a bill authored by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) that seeks to increase the number of people allowed to apply for the CW1 visa.

The Torres administration statement ensured that the CUC board would be provided a resolution upon Torres' return.

As of now, Torres is in Guam attending the 2017 Micronesian Island Forum.

GTC

From Page 1

asked them to identify the figurative language in the sentence: "I am nobody." The correct answer is paradox.

Garapan Elementary School placed third in the competition. Their team consisted of Raja Sevugan, Christine Retirado, Javan Mendez, Ryan Quitano, and Emma Chong.

Agape Christian School ranked second after the tie-breaker round. Their team consisted of Alice Zhang, Elvira Zhang, Kyla Carino, Mary Fu, and Bo Chen.

GTC's competitors were Rabeya Akter, Gabriel Retardo, Hannah Tenorio, Tyana Tesiro, and Nieves Villagomez.

Deborah Moore, a third grade teacher, was the coach for the GTC team. She feels ecstatic that her students were able to place this year. "We were hoping to place [in the top three], but we didn't expect to win!" Moore congratulated the students for their hard work as well as their parents.

William S. Reyes Elementary School, Green Meadows School, Grace Christian Academy, San Vicente Elementary School, Saipan International School, Kagman Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Northern Marianas International School were the other competing teams.

DRUG

From Page 3

governor Victor B. Hocog, Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and other justices and judges signed the proclamation. CNMI Bar Association president Charles E. Brasington read the proclamation.

Law Day is commemorated in the CNMI with the annual Junior and High School Mock Trial competitions, essay and poster contests, the 33rd annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition, and "Judges in the Classroom" program.

Brasington said promoting public understanding of the roots of freedom is an important component in the civic education of citizens of the U.S. and of the CNMI.

Upcoming presentation on Mariana bird life

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Captive breeding programs at participating zoos on the U.S. mainland have thus far experienced success with the golden white-eye.

The uniqueness of bird life in the CNMI will take center stage on Thursday, May 4, 2017, starting at 6pm, at the American Memorial Park auditorium. The presentation, to be hosted by the Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management in cooperation with the local Division of Fish and Wildlife, will also share the work that is being done in the region by the Marianas Avifauna Conservation project.

The MAC project's education and community outreach program has been growing on the island of Saipan. The CNMI DFW started the MAC program in 2004. The project is intended to provide the bird life of the Marianas with the best possible chances for long-term survival, with the objectives of preserving, maintaining, and establishing self-sustaining populations of native birds secure from the threat of the brown tree snake.

To rapidly address this threat, the DFW has asked institutions within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums community for assistance with long-term conservation efforts aimed at protecting native avifauna on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Background

The mid-1980s saw the brown tree snake either extirpate or drive to extinction nine of 12 species of forest bird in Guam. Almost 20 years later the U.S. Department of the Interior determined that Saipan may support an "incipient" population of this serious invasive predator. In 2005 the DFW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and AZA determined that preemptive action was necessary for the CNMI's bird life to avoid the fate that befell Guam, thus the MAC project became a reality.

The project's endeavors are two-fold; 1) the maintenance of captive populations (which serve as genetic reserves) of the CNMI's native and endemic forest bird species at AZA-affiliated institutions on the U.S. mainland, and 2) the establishment of satellite populations of these bird species on islands in the Mariana archipelago deemed safe from brown tree snakes.

Captive breeding programs at participating zoos on the U.S. mainland have thus far experienced success with the Mariana fruit dove, the white-throated ground dove, and the golden white-eye. Likewise, satellite populations of bridled white-eyes, golden white-eyes, and Mariana fruit doves have successfully been established on Sarigan. In both endeavors, however, there is more work ahead of the MAC project.

Ellen Gorrell of the Toledo Zoo first spoke to the local science academy in May 2013. This Thursday she will provide an update on the program's successes and challenges. Like all APASEEM gatherings, everyone is invited to attend and ask questions. Additional program information is available by visiting the Facebook page Gorrell maintains via https://www.facebook.com/MarianaAvifaunaConservation. For more information about APASEEM, visit our website at http://www.apaseem.org. ***(PR)***

House panel starts budget process

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Ways and Means met with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and Office of the Governor special assistant for management and budget Virginia C. Villagomez yesterday to begin the budgetary process.

Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) presided over the meeting at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill. He said the purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the fiscal year 2018 budget proposal submitted by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to the Legislature.

Finance identified $236,770,472 in gross budgetary resources for FY 2018, with Torres submitting a proposed budget of $145,260,075 after adjustments made for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds, and other legal obligations.

Demapan said the meeting was the first step in the budget process, with the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, headed by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), doing its share by also conducting budget hearings.

"The focus of [yesterday's] meeting was to ensure that before the House adopts House Concurrent Resolution 20-1, all the dollar amounts submitted by the governor are accurately reported," said Demapan.

Larson and Villagomez answered questions from Demapan, vice chair John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), and eight committee members.

Demapan said the next step would be on how to distribute the available funds to various government branches, departments, agencies, and divisions. "In this process, we will also be taking into consideration those included in the governor's budget proposal."

The gross adjustment includes an allocation of $45 million for the CNMI Settlement Fund and $56 million or 24 percent for the government's Settlement Fund obligations.

The CNMI's 2018 budget is 6 percent higher or $8,234,850 more compared to the $142.2 million in FY 2017.

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DoD awards $586K for Tinian Harbor Modification Study

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is set to officially continue the Tinian Harbor Modification Study, through a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment.

The Tinian Harbor will undergo a series of environmental, economic, and structural analyses by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best possible options to improve harbor navigation. The harbor is fragile and desperately needs to be stabilized, repaired, and modified. Improvements to the harbor will reduce risks and impacts to public and private stakeholders and its surrounding coral reefs and sea life.

According to the $586,000 grant, the Department of Defense environmental planning documents identified requirements for the Tinian Harbor to achieve installation sustainment and to accommodate military service training needs. The risk of these requirements not being met, as well as use of the harbor for other private or commercial purposes, is largely due to the current state of the breakwater, which prompted immediate action to continue the study.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Gary Kuwabara, western regional director for the Office of Economic Adjustment under the U.S. Department of Defense, pose with staff from the CNMI Office of Grants Management at the 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum in Guam.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that the grant award could not have come at a better time as the CNMI's economy continues to improve.

"This grant award is an important step toward revitalizing the Tinian Harbor and providing more economic opportunities for the people of Tinian. It is my hope that the study will validate and lock in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' direct participation and long term commitment in the development of navigation improvements at Tinian Harbor, similar to the Rota West Harbor," Torres said.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, chairman of the Luta and Tinian Harbor Task Force, explains that the Tinian Harbor study is historic in several aspects.

"For the first time in the harbor's history, the study will produce an Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement that identifies and formulates potential alternatives to improve navigation conditions for public and private stakeholders at Tinian Harbor, which is based on the most comprehensive stakeholder input the Commonwealth has ever undertaken over the course of 12 months," Hocog added.

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas explained through recent briefings that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District, will be responsible for producing the Tinian Harbor Modification Study in accordance with the 2015 Project Management Plan Agreement.

"The people of Tinian and Aguiguan are truly grateful that we are moving forward with this study. It is one large step forward, which is required prior to the construction phase," San Nicolas said.

According to Tinian and Aguiguan Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, the Tinian Breakwater was constructed in 1944-1945 by the U.S. Navy Seabees and serviced a vital World War II airfield. The breakwater provided wave protection for a dredged harbor, primarily used by liberty ships and C-3 type cargo vessels during World War II.

"The future of Tinian's economic livelihood depends on the successful completion of the harbor and its associated mitigating activities. It is my hope that we take our time to do it right and this feasibility study will assist all stakeholders in the process," Hofschneider said.

The grant was co-authored by the Office of the Governor and the CNMI Civil Military Liaison Office in partnership with the CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse. According to OGM Administrator Epi Cabrera, "The receipt of the grant award will initiate the routing of financial documents needed to formally continue the study."

"These long-awaited funds will allow USACE to continue and complete the feasibility study within their statutory allowed timeframe. The OGM-SC is pleased with the outcome of the grant submission, and we thank OEA and the Harbor Task Force for being so patient and responsive to our financial and improvement needs," Cabrera added. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-031

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than May 26, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed within forty (40) calendar days from issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2016 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-031, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 12, 2017.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2017** to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-025

ISA DRIVE SEWER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Construction firms for the Construction of the Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Project Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new sewer mains, manholes, and drop manholes. The asphalt pavement restoration shall be completed by others. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications.

CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 15, 2017 pending the Department of Public Works ongoing road construction. It may be extended if the road construction experiences any delays in the vicinity of the sewer line extension. The contractor shall be allotted a minimum of 90 days to complete the work.

This project is funded by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Capital Improvement Project thru the CNMI. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **May 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-17-025, Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Part B"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 16, 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 8, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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White, 4-cyl, 1.8 liter, Auto, CTVi, STK#U17-009R
WAS $20,599
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2016 Corolla LE
Gray 4-Dr, FWD, Auto, STK#U17-040R
NOW $20,999*

2015 Mazda CX-5, Grand Touring Sport
Auto, 4-Cyl, AWD, Red, STK#U16-151T
Below KBB Suggested Retail Value WAS $24,599
NOW $21,999*

2017 Prius HV
Black, Smart Key, STK#T17-08082
WAS $28,999
NOW $26,099*

2016 Mazda CX5, Grand Touring Sport
Blue, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, STK#U17-001T
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NOW $26,699*

2012 4Runner SR5
Black, 2WD, Auto, STK#U17-041P
NOW $26,599*

2016 Highlander LE
Blue, 2WD, Auto, STK#U17-038R
NOW $29,999*

2016 Highlander LE
Gray, 2WD, Auto, STK#U17-039R
NOW $29,999*

2016 Highlander LE
Black, 2WD, Auto, STK#U17-043R
NOW $29,999*

2015 4Runner SR5
4WD, V6, 4 Liter, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-018L
NOW $33,199*

2016 4Runner SR5
Red, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-044R
NOW $33,599*

2016 4Runner SR5
Gray,4WD, Auto, STK#U17-036R
NOW $33,999*

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Red, 4x4 Crew Cab, STK#T16-03737
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NOW $49,599*

2016 Tundra Crew Max SR5
Gray, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-006F
NOW $51,999*

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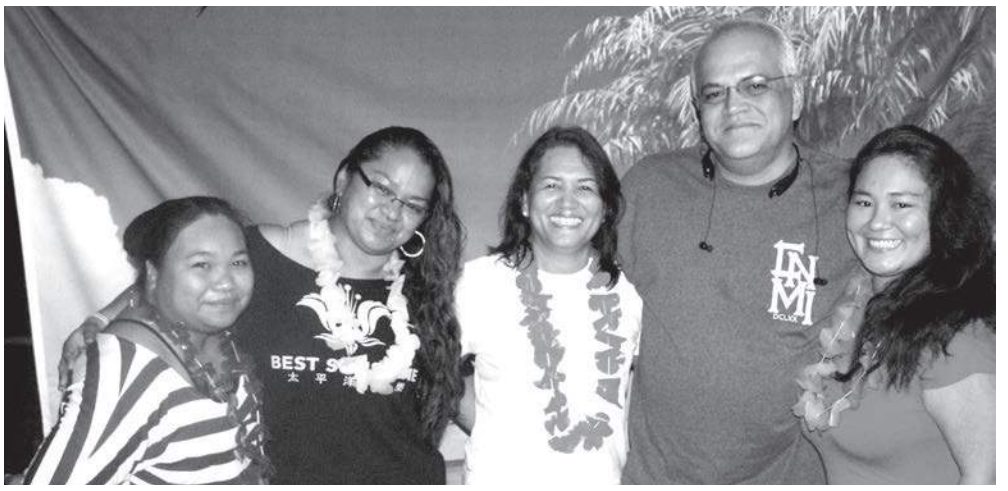
IPI-MHS hold luau fundraiser for 2017 MMAC

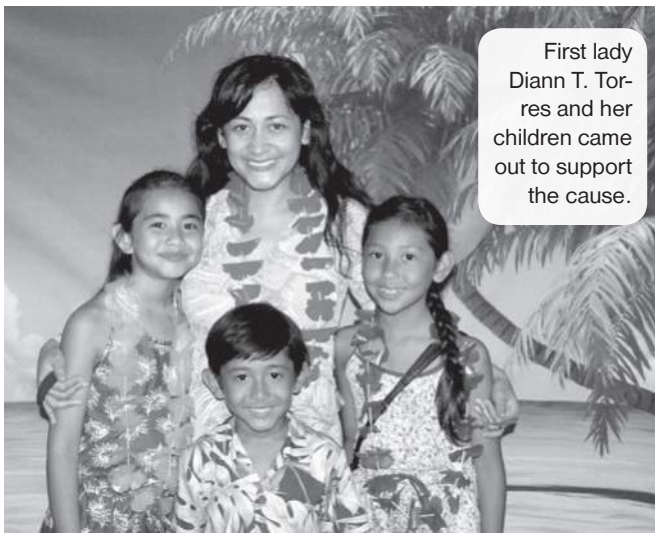
A beautiful and fun-filled luau fundraiser at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion was put together by Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility in partnership with Marianas High School for the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer. The Friday evening feast was accompanied by entertainment. All of the proceeds will go to the fight against cancer.

Imperial Pacific International senior finance manager Francis Mafnas, second right, is congratulated by IPI CSR executive director Geralyn Dela Cruz, left, and representatives of United Airlines as she took home one of two roundtrip tickets to Guam, courtesy of IPI and United Airlines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of Imperial Pacific International's finance department are all smiles as they enter the luau grounds.



First lady Diann T. Torres and her children came out to support the cause.

The Demapan sisters captured everyone's heart.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI CSR coordinator Edilyn Benjamin, manager Alex Palacios, and event treasurer Selmalyn Taitano greet guests as they arrive at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Festival of the Pacific Arts dancers performed Refaluwasch cultural dances.

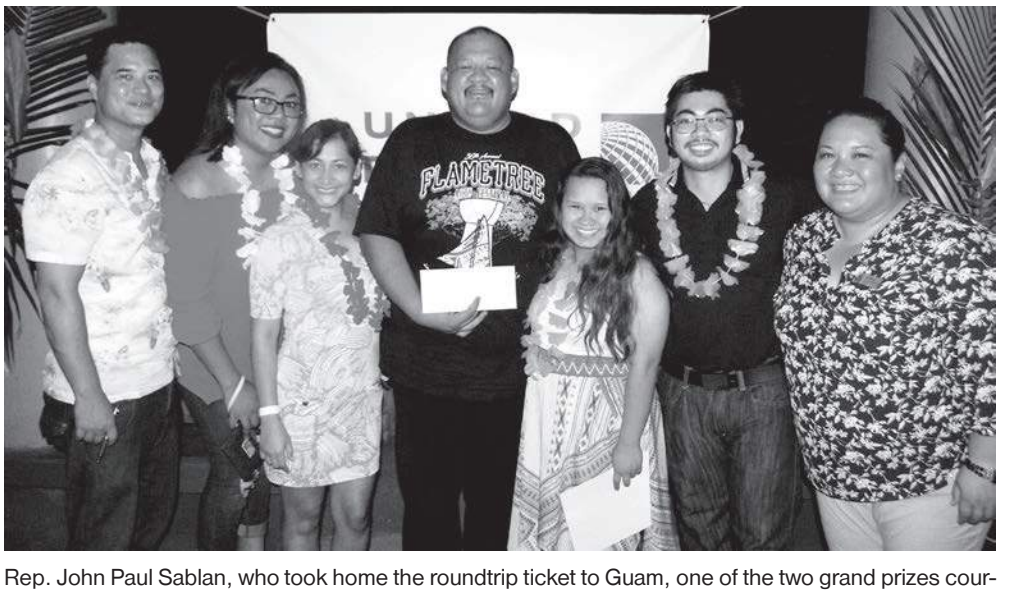
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Aguon family took home some awesome prizes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. John Paul Sablan and his family celebrated with Imperial Pacific's CSR team, MHS, and the community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Rep. John Paul Sablan, who took home the roundtrip ticket to Guam, one of the two grand prizes courtesy of IPI and United Airlines, celebrates with his family. IPI-CSR executive director Geralyn Geri Dela Cruz and manager Alex Palacios join United Airlines representatives in presenting the prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

29th Spring Band Concert at SCS this Thurs.

This Thursday, May 4, concert bands of the Saipan Community School will be putting on their 29th Annual Spring Band Concert under the direction of SCS band Instructor Anne McCaslin.

The student band members will be performing arrangements of works by Handel and Beethoven, as well as *A Whole New World* from Walt Disney's *Aladdin.*

The public is invited to join the school for an evening of music and fun at the SCS chapel at 7pm.

If you are interested in learning more about Saipan Community School, contact school principal Amanda Allen Dunn via email at principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call its offices at 234-6687, or come visit he school on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

Concert bands of the Saipan Community School will be putting on their 29th Annual Spring Band Concert this Thursday, May 4. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC CHARTER DAY COMMITTEE

Vendors invited to NMC Annual Charter Day

The Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the college's 36th Annual Charter Day celebration on Friday, May 12, 2017.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food and drinks (water/ coconut juice in a nut), game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

Booth applications forms must be submitted by Friday, May 5, 2017, by 4pm. Note, however, that booth spaces are limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The booth fee is $150 for all commercial vendors but for student clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75.

Applications forms are available for download at www.marianas.edu later this week, or can be picked up from the NMC CDI Office.

For more information, contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6809 or email queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

Vendors of difference categories (food, drink, games, nonprofit, etc.) are invited to host a booth at NMC's Charter Day.

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EDITORIAL

Difficult to like Donald Trump's tax plan so far

This editorial will be longer than President Donald Trump's current tax plan. We've added more words and more information than it seems the White House did. We also raise questions the one-page plan doesn't even begin to answer. And, unlike the president, we won't make grand promises we can't keep.

So far, Trump's tax overhaul, unveiled Wednesday, is flimsy and certainly incomplete. But from what we can tell, the plan seems to be a windfall for the wealthiest Americans, with little evidence that it delivers on Trump's campaign promises. It could particularly hurt regions where taxpayers depend on itemized deductions to lower their tax burdens. And it could balloon the federal deficit, leaving generations with a hole that'll be difficult to escape.

The proposal does take the right approach in attempting to simplify the barnacled process. It would, for instance, reduce the number of income tax brackets from seven to three. But we don't know the income levels for those brackets, so we have no idea how that would affect individual taxpayers. Wealthy taxpayers would benefit from the elimination of the estate tax and the alternative minimum tax, as well as from reductions in the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, a rate that would also apply to income from partnerships, hedge funds and other "pass-through" arrangements. White House officials claim they would find a way to prevent lawyers, consultants and other high-income earners who now pay at a higher individual rate (up to 39.6 percent) from sliding into the 15 percent category. But the door seems to be wide open for those at the top to benefit most. It widens even further when we add the GOP's repeal of a tax that funds Medicare tucked into the proposed Obamacare repeal.

In a potentially devastating move for highly taxed regions, the president's plan would get rid of key itemized deductions, including those for state and local taxes, and medical and home office expenses. The mortgage interest and charitable contributions deductions would stay, but that wouldn't matter if many of those who itemize could no longer do so. The standard deduction would double but still their taxes could rise, and the value of their homes sink.

And despite pledges to the contrary, there's no evidence that the massive tax cuts would lead to significant job creation or economic growth, never mind the kind that would cover the revenue loss—up to $7 trillion over the next 10 years. The concept of cutting taxes to spur growth, in the hopes that the growth would fill the revenue gap, isn't new. It dates back to economist Arthur Laffer's infamous curve of the 1970s and '80s, and, later, to the concept President George H.W. Bush called "voodoo economics." We've been down this road under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. Both times, the concept failed, and deficits grew.

And while it's not by itself a reason to dismiss the overhaul, yes, Trump's plan would certainly benefit Trump, his family and their companies. We don't know how much because the president won't release his tax returns. We're told he has no intention of doing so.

Congress should insist on it—especially before approving any tax overhaul.

(c) 2017 *Newsday*

100 down, way too many to go

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

WASHINGTON—So what all has he done for us? Let's count the ways.

If you have been a huge fan of building a big, beautiful wall on our southern border, you are disappointed. There may be a virtual one, more border agents and tons of drones. But there won't be a physical wall. It is too costly, too difficult, too impractical and too immoral. Even the pope says so. If President Donald Trump read, he would know that the Berlin Wall symbolized, for more than a generation, man's inhumanity to man.

If you are a fan of capital punishment, you're happy. Trump's push for the ascension of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court smoothed the way for death row inmates to drop like flies in Arkansas.

If you're a woman who depends on Planned Parenthood for Pap smears, mammograms or birth control, you are a nervous wreck. Trump has drastically cut funds for women's health and decimated family planning services in much of the developing world. But he still loves the women.

If you're in business, you're on pins and needles. Your corporation's been promised a humongous tax cut from 35 percent to 15 percent and all kinds of delicious tax reforms so you can grow your wealth and corner the Chinese market. Bad news. Members of Congress are musing they can't do that without seeing Trump's tax returns. How would he would benefit from the changes he wants?

But, Big Businessperson, you have to be happy nothing will be done to close all those loopholes that so advantage you. And your stock is soaring.

If you cheered Trump's drain-the-swamp mantra, you have to be the teeniest bit upset. What with foreign potentates enriching the president's coffers every time they visit his posh D.C. hotel (for which he has an illegal government lease). And his daughter Ivanka getting three lucrative business deals with the Chinese government for her clothing, shoes and jewelry lines right after she sat next to the Chinese prime minister at dinner at Mar-a-Lago. And Wall Street moguls now running the very regulatory agencies they railed against for the last eight years. And the right to mingle with the president if you pay $200,000 or $300,000 for membership in one of his golf clubs.

If you are a tree hugger or just someone who relishes drinking clean water and breathing clean air, you are distraught. The president knows nothing about science. Climate change? A hoax. The Environmental Protection Agency? Time to scuttle it. The Interior Department? What's up with national monuments anyway? Who needs them?

You work for a fast food chain. You support two children. You have to get food stamps to make ends meet. You live in terror of a car breakdown or a health emergency. You were desperately hoping for a rise in the national minimum wage. Trump opposes that. Won't happen on his watch.

If you work for Carrier in Indiana, perhaps your job is one of 800 saved for a while longer because Trump and his vice president, a former Indiana governor, pushed the state to subsidize it. But perhaps not. Carrier's parent, United Technologies, next year is moving production of components for furnaces from Huntington, Ind., to Mexico, Trump or no Trump.

Miners in Appalachia were promised the return of King Coal. It's looking bleak. There are only 77,000 coal jobs left, down from well over 800,000 in the 1920s. Trump's repudiation of a federal rule designed to protect groundwater, streams and wildlife in coal country will not add more coal jobs.

If you hate, hate, hate Obamacare, you are gloomy. It's still there, and Day One, when it was supposed to be repealed and replaced, was a hundred days ago. If only it weren't so darned complicated.

If you think the world's richest superpower should have safe roads, deepwater ports, functioning electric grids, non-brittle rail lines running into New York City and non-cracking dams, you are probably wondering what is happening with Trump's $1 trillion infrastructure plan. Everyone is.

And if you are one of the four out of 10 Americans who think Trump is doing a bang-up job destroying the system, you'd vote for him again today. He is what he is. Ain't nothing the rest of us can do about it but pick up the pieces when he's gone.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Terrorizing immigrant families

By FABIOLA SANTIAGO
Miami Herald

Fabiola Santiago is a columnist for the Miami Herald. *Readers may email her at fsantiago@miamiherald.com.*

"The wall will get built, folks!"

That's President Donald Trump fielding media questions Tuesday in his typically sophomoric vocabulary as the clock ticks on his first 100 days in office.

"The wall gets built 100 percent. ... The wall is very, very important."

People laugh when I tell them that President Trump forced me to give up caffeine. But it's no joke. My daily dose of supercharged cafecito, a standard practice in my life the last four decades, has been replaced by healthier teas for one reason: Writing while heavily caffeinated about Trump's cruel immigration policies—mothers and fathers being ripped apart from their children—was going to kill me.

As ugly an idea as it is, the stupid wall is not what enrages me. But I could feel my blood pressure rise daily as the campaign promises of a crass celebrity billionaire were turned into the executive orders of a president for whom undocumented immigrants who've made this country their home for decades made an easy, immediate target.

Never mind the fact that Mexico isn't paying and that Congress, at least for now, is not funding Trump's wall, and that Trump apparently has agreed to stand down on wall funding to avoid a government shutdown. The constant talk about the wall is a distraction from the real immigration story unfolding every day in communities across the country and from our being able to see—really see—the victims of Trump's short tenure in office.

The big accomplishment of Trump's first 100 days is terrorizing undocumented immigrants who make for easy targets: Fathers dropping children off at school in Latino communities. Mothers arrested at routine check-in appointments with ICE. A grandmother taking care of a Navy veteran's children picked up outside her house. A peaceful activist detained after leaving a news conference. A business owner beloved in a pro-Trump community deported despite pleas.

I could go on citing cases, notable for the focus on deporting mostly Mexicans forced to leave their U.S. citizen children behind. The roster of good people deported by the Trump administration is growing. All this suffering is being heaped upon a segment of the population to appease a base of voters who are in the minority but whose old prejudices and new fear of others are driving the country's agenda.

Interestingly enough, Americans are telling pollsters in record numbers that they support immigration.

Six in 10 Americans said immigration helps more than it hurts the country, according to a newly released Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey. That's up six points since the last survey in September and the highest level of support for immigration measured since 2005.

Yet under Trump, ICE has amped up the deportation of nonviolent immigrants who were breadwinners in their families. Who's going to pay for raising parentless U.S. citizen children? Taxpayers, of course.

Trump's deportees have not turned out to be, after all, the "bad hombres" whom Trump vowed to deport, the estimated two million undocumented with criminal records, including gang members.

The word cowardly comes to mind. It takes courage to engage in effective policing and rounding up real criminals, and only a jaded heart or no heart at all to separate parents from their children.

The easy-target deportations cover up the Trump administration's other immigration policy failures.

Federal courts have now twice stopped Trump from barring entry to people from predominantly Muslim countries where he doesn't have business interests. On Tuesday, a federal judge in San Francisco blocked Trump's order to cut off funding to cities that limit cooperation with immigration authorities and have been blacklisted as "sanctuary cities."

The next 100 days only promise more bad policy-making, more injustice—and the smokescreen of a wall that's already risen.

Conservatism flourishing under Trump

By TAYLOR BUDOWICH
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The resurgent conservative movement, fueled primarily by the Tea Party, has dramatically changed the political map in America. Outside of major metropolitan areas, liberals and Democrats have retreated to the two coasts, while heartland America has seen historic growth among conservatives. It will continue under President Donald Trump.

Since 2009, Democrats have lost more than 1,000 seats in state legislatures, governor's mansions and Congress. Voters rejected the agenda and rhetoric of the Democratic Party, while finding inspiration in a Republican Party revitalized by the conservative movement.

Because Trump has had his own transition from a New York Democrat to a Make America Great Republican, many pundits falsely assumed that the modern conservative movement is doomed.

As we have watched nationalist movements ascend around the globe, many observers believe that conservatism under Trump will be marginalized by his nationalistic rhetoric. But if you look to the pillars of Ronald Reagan's presidency as the lodestar for modern conservatism, Trump is a worthy successor in three areas.

Strong national defense: Between the missile attack on Syria, the Mother of All Bombs drop in Afghanistan and the aircraft carrier group being sent to the Korean Peninsula, does anyone have any lingering doubts that Trump is following Reagan's prescription of peace through strength?

Strong economic growth: Growth will also define the role of conservatism under President Trump. Americans have suffered dramatically under an economy that has yet to recover. Instead of 5 percent and 6 percent growth after the recession, Barack Obama presided over an anemic 2 percent growth, hampering the ability of all Americans to get ahead.

President Trump's campaign proposed bold tax reform that simplifies the tax code and flattens rates as the only way to provide the financial spark our economy needs. He has argued for the repeal of more than a trillion dollars of Affordable Care Act taxes to boot.

Unheralded in much of the media has been the dramatic elimination of regulations by the Obama administration, with Trump already signing a dozen rollbacks of intrusive government regulations. He knows the regulatory burden is almost worse than the tax burden in curtailing economic growth.

Instilling confidence in America: You don't have to go any further than his campaign slogan of "Make America Great Again." Polls show a boost in economic confidence, and his success in tax and regulatory reform will make his re-election campaign like Reagan's "It's morning in America again."

Trump has never claimed to be a conservative ideologue in the mold of Barry Goldwater. He will never articulate the conservative intellectual arguments that Reagan often advanced, but the core of his policies fall squarely within conservative action.

Conservatism is alive and well under Trump's administration, and the immediate goal of conservatives should be to extend the political pendulum swing. That's why conservatives of every stripe should work with President Trump in advancing conservative policies and not get hung up on nuance and legislative minutia.

Then, as policy victories begin to mount, Tea Party Express and organizations like ours can continue recruiting and electing more conservatives who are willing and able to push the envelope even further.

Taylor Budowich is the executive director of Tea Party Express. He wrote this for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at tbudowich@teapartyexpress.org.*

Trump doesn't understand Congress at all

By JONATHAN ALLEN
CQ-ROLL CALL

If it were up to President Donald Trump—and a lot of Americans—Congress might not exist. After all, the legislative branch is the kind of inert obstacle that a disruptor business executive doesn't have to contend with as he innovates and improvises in the private sector.

Alas, for Trump, the Founding Fathers believed that wild swings in direction could tear a fragile nation asunder. They made it difficult for a president—any president—to rewrite public policy, push the nation to war or enter into treaties.

Over time, the president has gained more power in those areas, but Trump doesn't like the remaining limitations. He wanted to pass a new version of the American Health Care Act before his 100th day in office, mainly to prove he could do something of magnitude in that period. That won't happen—just like his vow to repeal Obamacare on the first day of his presidency never had any chance of being fulfilled.

He neither understands how Congress works nor shows much interest in finding out. But if he wants to be a successful president, he'll have to figure it out.

He'll also need an army of people who know how to manipulate the legislative process—how to work both sides of the aisle and both chambers of Congress—to make laws. Neither the people he brought from Congress to his administration nor the leaders of the House GOP have much experience in doing that.

Most of them have spent their careers throwing grenades at lawmakers who actually try to make laws.

What have House Republicans accomplished legislatively in their six-plus years in the majority or even in the final years of the Bush administration?

Virtually nothing.

It's been more than a dozen years or so since Bush's big, bipartisan laws—No Child Left Behind, Medicare Part D and his original tax cuts—were signed.

Swamp things The members of Congress who did the heavy lifting on those laws are long gone. Some of them are on K Street or elsewhere in the D.C. private sector. Though Trump promised to "drain the swamp," he should hire some of them or the top Hill aides who made those things happen.

He needs a team of folks who have spent their lives thinking about clever ways to bring disparate forces together, not scheming to prevent Congress from working.

It should be easy for a guy who's been in development and loves the art of the deal to figure that out. He should know it's harder to make deals and build things than to get in the way of progress.

It can't just be the people who actually work for the White House but a network of insiders and outsiders who try to move his agenda; without that, he'll remain stalled.

He should announce that he's going to form such a team and then recruit people—Republicans, Democrats and maybe a few nonpartisans—to join the effort. If the Freedom Caucus has taught him anything, it's that about 10 percent of his own party can't be counted on to vote with him on anything.

Trump has vacillated between saying he'll work with Democrats and calling them names on Twitter. They're already pretty alienated, so he must decide soon whether he wants to be a hardcore anti-establishment president with no legislative achievements or a deal-maker who will look in all corners of Congress to pick off the votes he needs for his priorities.

There's no time to waste. But first, he'll have to accept that Congress isn't built to just do what the president says, even when it's controlled by the president's party.

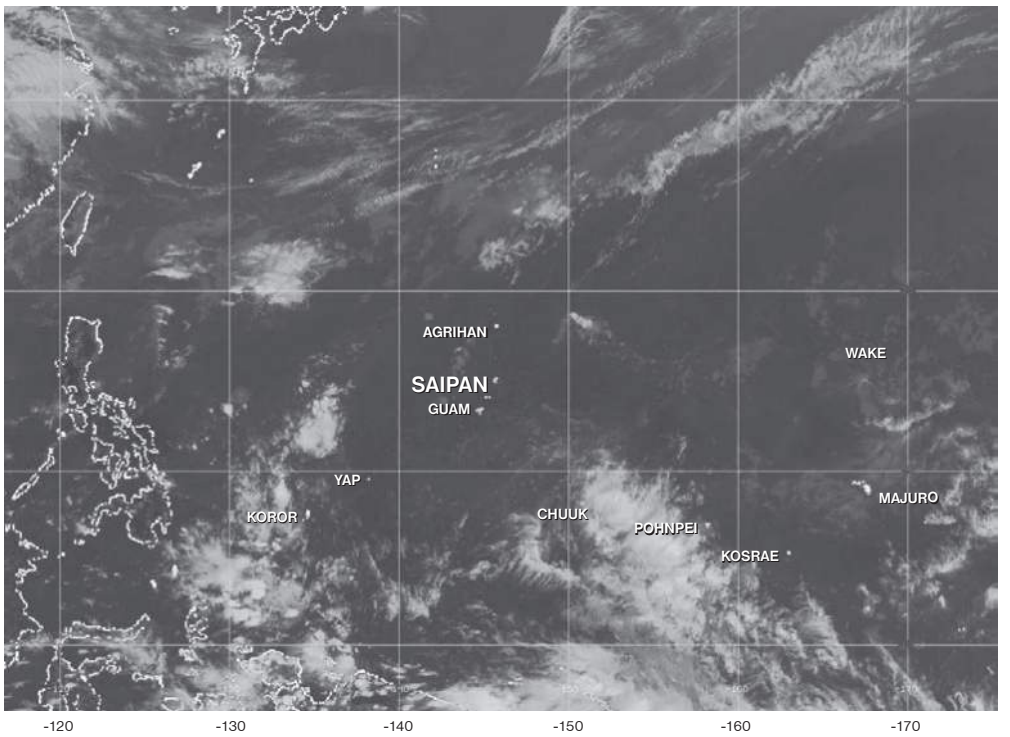
Roll Call columnist Jonathan Allen is a co-author of Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign *and has covered Congress, the White House and elections over the past 16 years.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sun and a few passing clouds.	Partly cloudy skies.	Scattered thunderstorms.	Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with afternoon showers or thunderstorms.
▲87º ▼77º	▲86º ▼79º	▲87º ▼78º	▲86º ▼78º	▲86º ▼78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:55 AM, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes were needed to the forecast, as moderate trades and isolated showers will persist for several more days. Seas will build slightly tonight, and will be 4-6 ft through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 | 80 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87 | 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	83 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86 | 80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	61 | 49 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88 | 60 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82 | 76 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	85 | 73 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	62 | 45 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	82 | 60 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93 | 81 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	57 | 45 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85 | 75 °F
New York	Sunny	74 | 52 °F
Osaka	Sunny	77 | 60 °F
Paris	Cloudy	62 | 43 °F
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	79 | 47 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70 | 50 °F
Salem	Cloudy	63 | 52 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	74 | 56 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	84 | 52 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	72 | 51 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	78 | 56 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
6:46 AM	LOW TIDE	1.15
11:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.70
6:51 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.18

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:16 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:23 AM	12:13 PM
Thursday	-	1:12 AM	1:09 PM
Friday	-	1:58 AM	2:01 PM
Saturday	-	2:41 AM	2:52 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

May celebrates Mother's Day

About me

By DAEHUN KIM
8B, MCS

My school is Mount Carmel School on Saipan. Thing that I like in my school is there are many activities and events. We try to communicate with teachers and they do it too. I think it is good to do many things like our school that makes relationship with teachers. My family members are my dad, mom, and me. My cousins and grandparents are not on Saipan. I came to Saipan to learn English. We don't have much time to see each other so we usually go and see them during vacation. My hobby is to see stars because when I was young, I didn't have much thing to do so I looked up in the sky to see stars. I like Saipan because I can see many stars clearly. So sometimes, I go to some cliffs and mountains to see stars with my parents and friends. When I grow up, I want to get a job related to stars.

My siblings

By MATHEA JENELLE DEOCARES
10 years old, 4th Grade, WSR

In my family, I have four siblings. My eldest sibling is *Kuya* Jeff. *Kuya* is what we call an elder brother in my culture. He actually lives in Guam because he is going to college. He is really sweet, nice, and funny.

I am the second child, Mathea. I enjoying singing and listening to music. I think I am a kind person as well.

My third sibling is Mikaela. She is 5 and is in Kindergarten. She is naughty at times but sweet. She is also brave, she has the confidence to do anything. She isn't scared to be in front of a really big crowd. She is also girly; she acts sassy but acts funny at the same time.

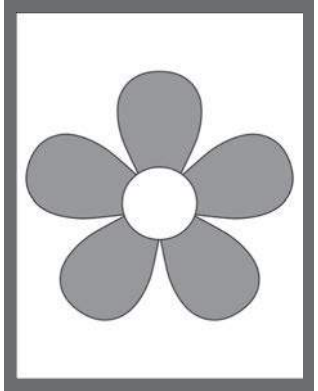
Right now, my youngest sibling is Melody. She is 1 year old and is turning 2 in August. She is really cute, she can say many words like hi, bye, yes, no, and more. She hugs and kisses everyone in our family. She even says yes when we ask her if she loves us.

My youngest sibling will be Matheo. He will be named after me because my name is "Mathea." He is not born yet but will be coming sometime in the summer.

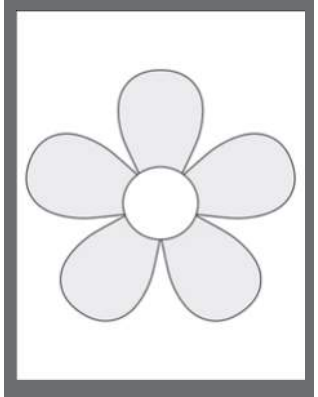
I love all my siblings because they are always there for me. They support me with everything that I do.

My siblings and I love to bond but sometimes we don't really have time to bond. When we do bond we have fun! We do random things such as dancing, pranking our parents, watching movies and more! We usually eat food such as junk foods but we sometimes eat healthy foods like salads, fruits and more.

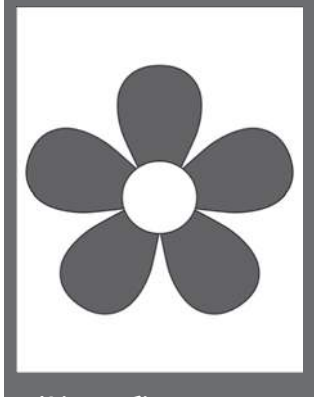
Bouquet for Mom



Red Flowers - L.O.V.E.



Green Flowers - H.O.P.E.



Blue Flowers - I.N.S.P.I.R.E.

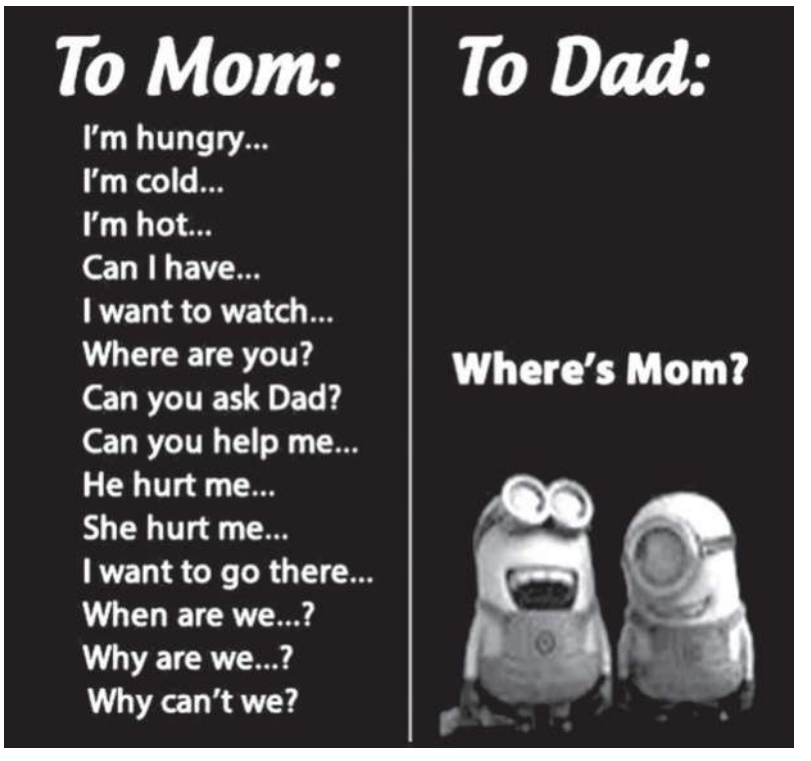
My favorite place to visit on Saipan

By KATHERINE WOODRUFF
Student of Mr. Hernandez, 8B

My favorite place to visit on Saipan is the beach. No beach in particular, just the beach. I find it very serene when not many people are around. Even when there is quite a crowd at the beach, it's still a lot of fun to go swimming, be with friends, barbecue, or even have a party! It's an overall great place to be, and most who live on Saipan would agree.

I don't always get to go to the beach, but when I do, it's usually with friends. Being at the beach is usually more fun if you're with friends. Whether it's night swimming or a birthday, it's great to have friends around. It's a great way to bond and get to know each other better. The same goes for being with family.

To me, a beach is a staple of any island. It's probably the first thing you think of when you imagine paradise. It's one of the most easily accessible things on Saipan, yet many of us take it for granted. The beach is something beautiful that most people don't have easy access to. It's a privilege that we should enjoy, so count your blessings, and maybe treat yourself to that beautiful white sand and frothy, blue ocean.



My Cool Hobby

Playing soccer

Wakee Aishan Hernandez Canillo's cool hobby is soccer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By WAKEE AISHAN HERNANDEZ CANILLO
9 Years Old, Grade 4, WSR

My cool hobby is soccer. Soccer is fun and you can compete with other teams. One could play school soccer, outside league and even during physical education classes. Even if you make a mistake in practice or during a game it's OK because there is no right or wrong. It's all about learning the skills and developing them as you practice. I even love playing at recess with my friends or classmates.

Some positions in soccer are goalies, who stay in front of the goal and block the ball from scoring; defenders who are the last line of defense that tries to kick the ball out before it scores; the mid's who run back and forth, helping the defenders and the forwards to try to score; and last we have the forwards, who are the main people that are supposed to score into the goal. The referee can call fouls (if someone push or shove somebody) and they call outs (if the ball goes out of bounds). In soccer, you don't have to worry if you get dirty because that's part of game, we actually play rain or shine.

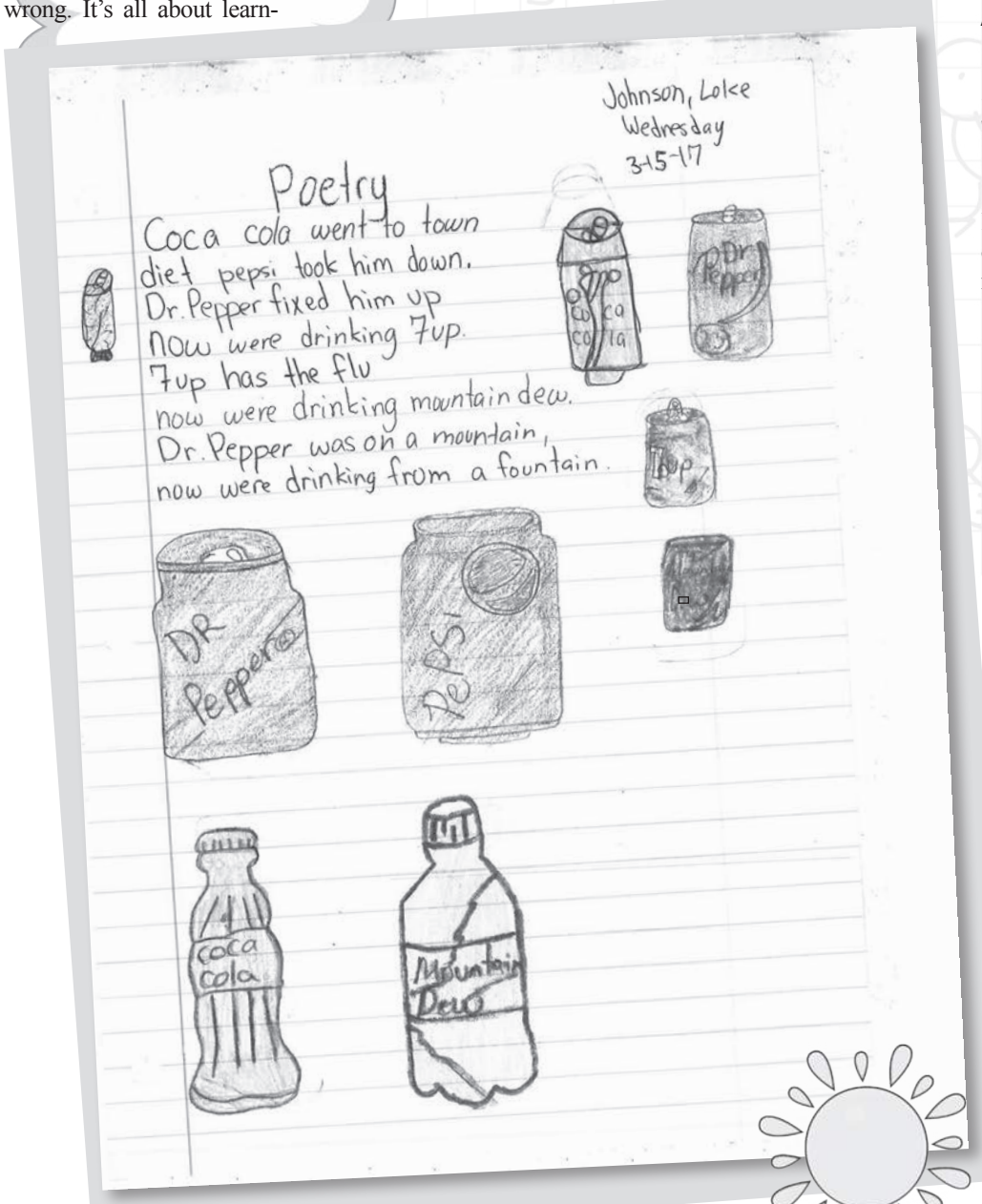
Soccer is mostly called football around the world. Soccer is a great outdoors sport for all ages young and old.

Of course, one needs to buy special equipment for the game. Some gears goalies wear are ball mittens and kneepads to protect their knees. All players need to wear shin guards, and cleats are optional but encouraged.

The main goal is to get the ball and score it into one of the other team's goal. Each one of the players should not push with hands and can't hold the ball unless they are the goalie. The reason I like soccer is because it can get really competitive. You play the sport on a green grassy field called a pitch.

Playing soccer is not about winning. It's about having fun and doing your own personal best and working as a team! When you play, don't worry too much what others think of you in a bad way. In my opinion, it's about being friendly and trying makes me feel better when I play. My hobby is fun and maybe it also would be fun for you!

I believe you should try playing soccer if you haven't yet. Playing the game makes me feel free and gets stress out of my way. I love the feeling when I block balls and score! It doesn't matter if you win or lose; at least you're having fun and enjoying your life! Soccer is a cool hobby!



Art and design

Angeliza Phan shows off some of her designs. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ANGELIZA PHAN
12 years old, 5th Grade, WSR

I remember my very first illustration. It was a black and orange tiger holding a piece of meat in its mouth. The tiger's tail was curved, and the tiger was walking toward mountains. After I gave the drawing to my teacher, she posted it on the wall. That was over five years ago when I was in the first grade.

I love to draw! I like to draw animals like dogs, cats, birds, wolves, lions, and anything else that is alive and moves. I love to paint and color my drawings.

My favorite style for my clothing is a punk rock look. I sometimes dream about making new types of clothing. I sometimes like to draw clothing that I imagine in my head.

I also like to draw my friends as animé characters. When I draw them, I think about their clothing, style, and features like how they make their hair and how they look.

I love doing animal paintings as well. I paint dolphins, birds, lions, wolves, turtles, and tigers. I mostly do three-dimensional drawings and paintings, but I like to do abstract art as well. When I do 3-D drawings, I like to be creative. I turn messy drawings into 3-D art.

I would really like to encourage other students to try their best at art and to always practice by sketching, drawing, styling, and designing.

All about our principal

By NARHYA MERSAI
9 YEARS OLD, 4TH GRADE, WRS

This marks my 5th year at WSR Elementary School. I am proud to be a Kingfisher and honored to share the many good things about our principal. Our principal is Ms. Naomi Nishimura. She is a good principal because she keeps our school in good shape. She is an awesome principal because she can handle the students', parents', and the teachers' concerns and problems. Problems cause us to have headaches but she is still friendly and likes to smile. She comes to work dressed very professionally and I love her hair styles. She is my role model because she can take care of our school and her family at the same time. I know that it is hard work to balance the work time and family time. Our principal is always encouraging us to do our best. It's like she's our mom because she wants us to be safe and do well in school. She signs and approves our educational trips, which makes our learning more fun. She is a great principal because whenever she has time to step out of the office, she greets students and teachers before classes start.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
WSR Elementary School principal Naomi Nishimura.

Interview with a skydiver

By ALEX MEGINO
7TH GRADE, TANMS

Taylor Smallwood is a pilot and an expert in freefall, wingsuit jumping, BASE jumping, and skydiving. According to Wikipedia, wingsuit jumping is the sport of gliding through the air using a wingsuit, which adds surface area to the human body to enable a significant increase in lift. BASE jumping is parachuting or wingsuit flying from a fixed structure or cliff. "BASE" is an acronym that stands for four categories of fixed objects from which one can jump: building, antenna, span, and Earth (cliff).

Question: How did you become a skydiver?

A: Fifteen years ago, I was 18 and wanted to get into hang gliding, but some buddies in my U.S. Marine Corps platoon talked me into getting into skydiving instead.

Q: What is the feeling like when you had your first time in the open air?

A: It feels like you're flying, no stomach drop like a rollercoaster. You feel and hear the wind that we use to move around in the air, by moving our body in different positions. My first time, I was focused on the tasks I had to perform during the "accelerated freefall course, level 1."

Q: Where have you skydived before?

A: All over the U.S.A., New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, and Fiji. But I also B.A.S.E. jumped, which is jumping from fixed objects with specialized signal parachute systems, from other countries like Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Canada, and Madagascar.

Q: Which of your customers are more fearless when jumping for the first time?

A: I think women are more fearless more often.

Q: In the future, could parachutes become more controlled by humans?

A: We have a lot of control with our present parachutes. Parachutes have come a long way over the years. We fly high performance wings, which are very fast and maneuverable. But they will only continue to get better and better.

Q: Is it dangerous to be a skydiver?

A: That depends on the individual. If you have taken the time to understand all of the dangers of any activity, then you take away a lot of the risk. In skydiving we have two parachutes, one in case the first doesn't work. We also have a computer in the parachute rig that automatically deploys the reserve in case we can't pull the main parachute in time.

Q: What was your most memorable jump?

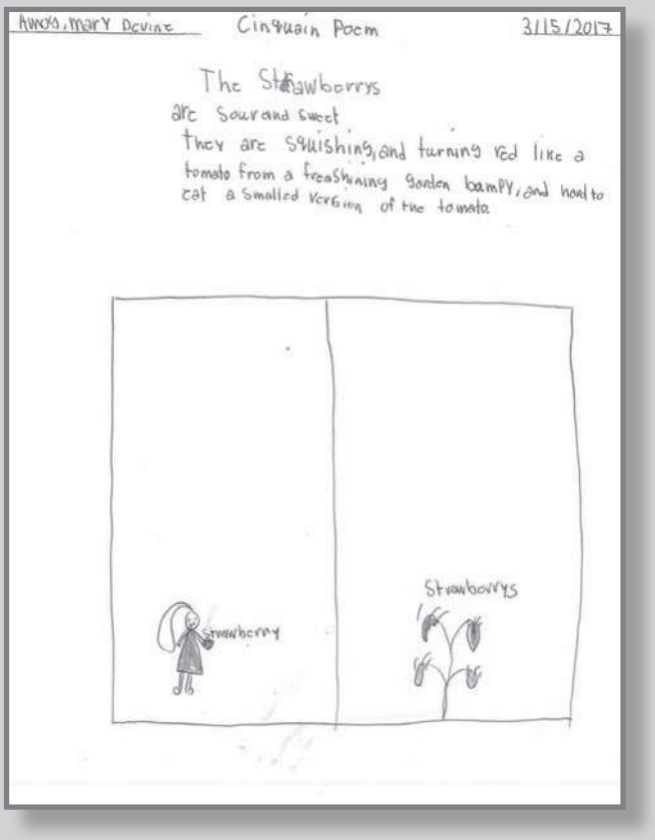
A: There are so many jumps I will never forget. It's taken me to some of the most beautiful places, and it has introduced me to an amazing group of people. Flying wingsuits in the mountains with my friends are some of my favorite memories.

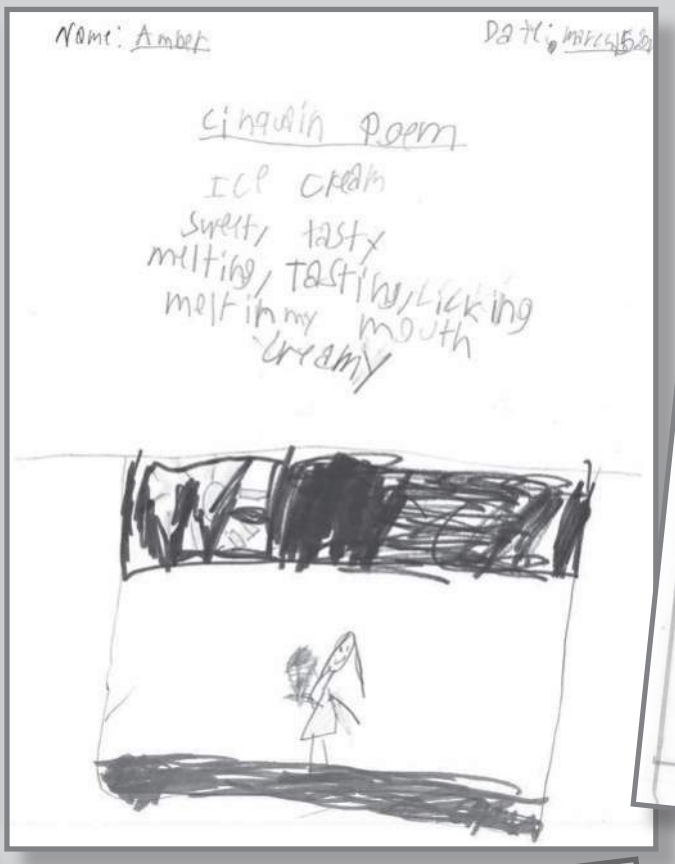
Q: What else do you wish to pursue in your career?

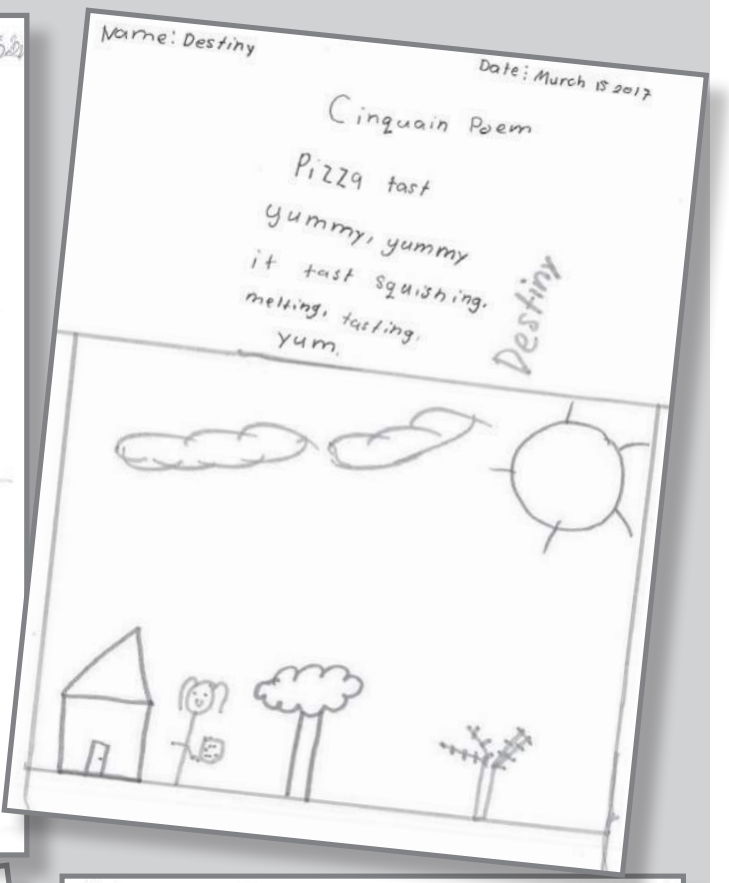
A: I'm working to save up for a sailboat that I want to live on and sail around the world.

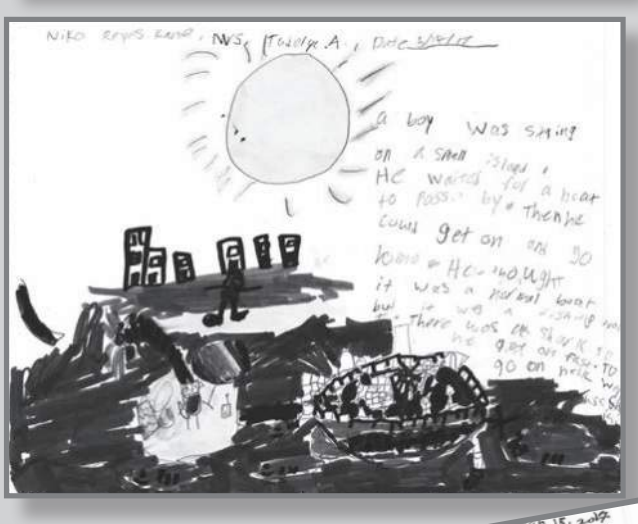
Q: What would be your message to those who haven't tried skydiving yet?

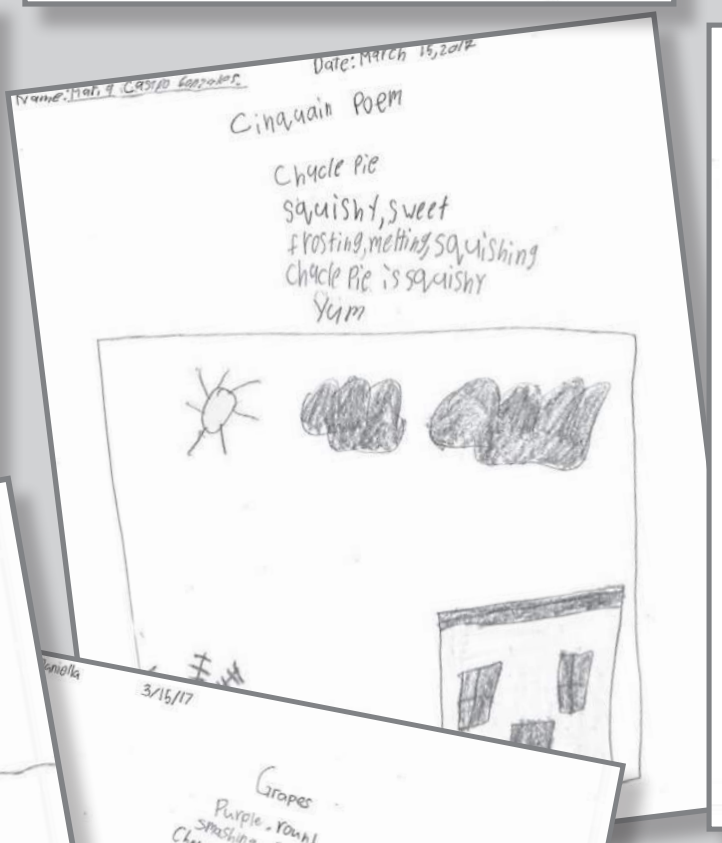
A: If you're interested, try it. You should always chase your dreams.

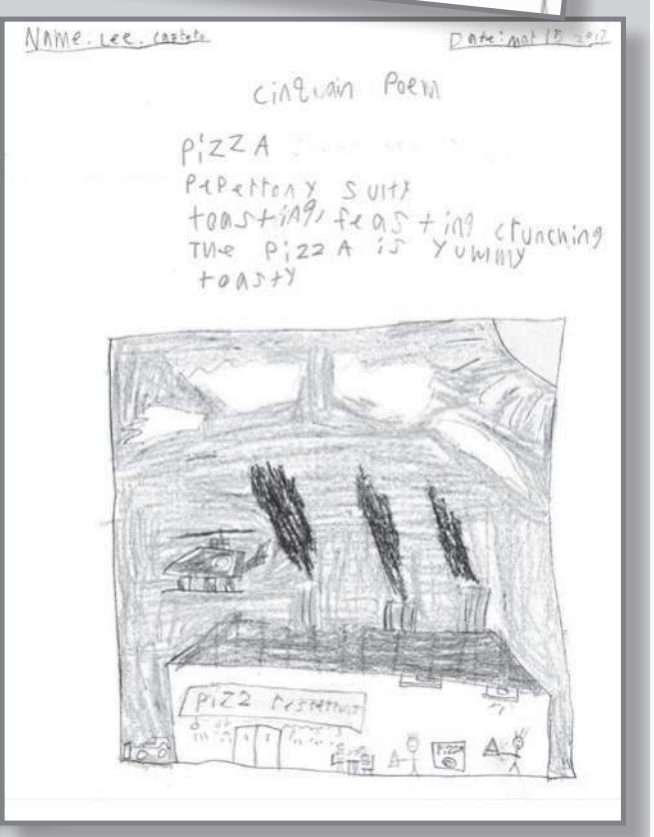

Cinquain Poem
3/15/2017
The Strawberrys
are Sour and sweet
They are squishing, and turning red like a tomato from a freashening garden bumpy, and hard to eat a smalled version of the tomato
Strawberry
Strawberrys

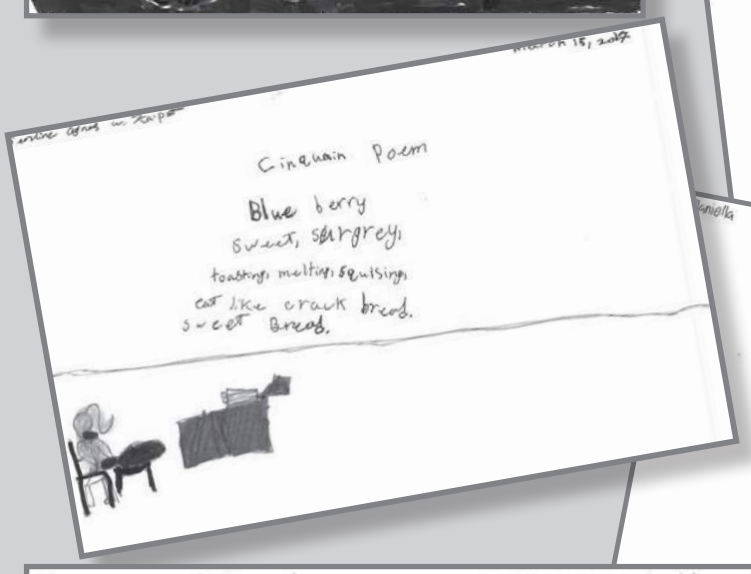


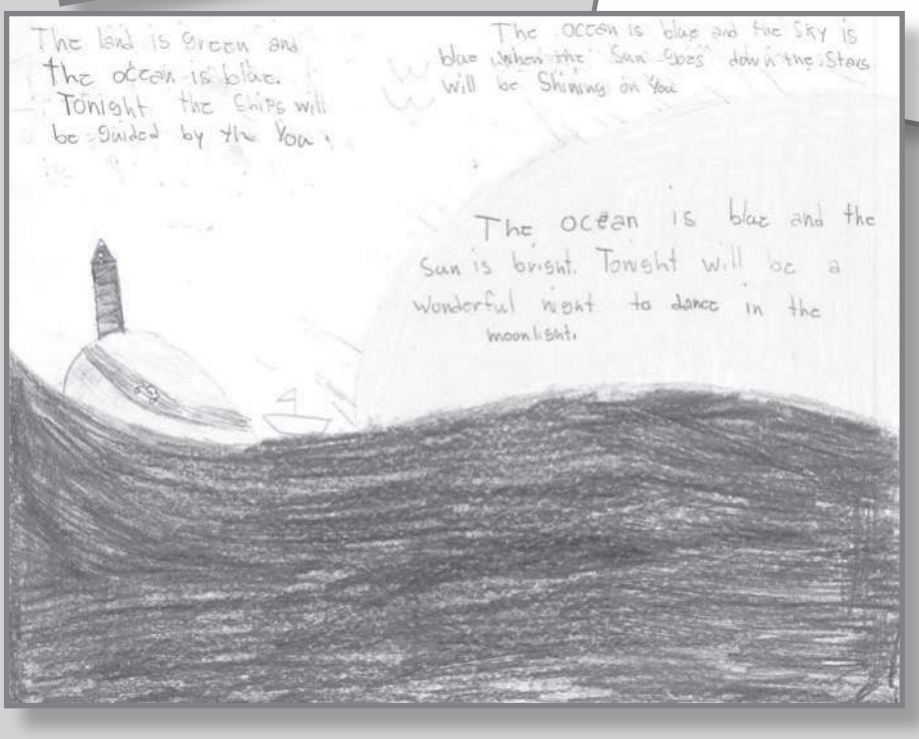



a boy was saying
on a small island,
He wanted for a boat
to pass by then he
could get on and go
home. He thought
it was a normal boat
but there was a shark in
the sea on the boat to
go on home.








The land is green and
the ocean is blue.
Tonight the ships will
be guided by the Yoru.
The ocean is blue and the SKY is
blue when the Sun goes down the Stars
will be Shining on You
The ocean is blaz and the
Sun is bright. Tonight will be a
Wonderful night to dance in the
moonlight.

Images courtesy of the second grade class of Kagman Elementary School.

This month's Youngstyle is presented by *Saipan Tribune* and in gratitude to EKATERINA MENCHIKH's assistance.

Asia

Immigrants, unions march in US for rights, against Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Immigrant and union groups will march in cities across the United States on Monday to mark May Day and protest against President Donald Trump's efforts to boost deportations.

Tens of thousands of immigrants and their allies are expected to rally in cities such as New York, Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles. Demonstrations also are planned for dozens of smaller cities from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, to Portland, Oregon.

In many places, activists are urging people to skip work, school and shopping to show the importance of immigrants in American communities.

While union members traditionally march on May 1 for workers' rights in countries around the world, the day has become a rallying point for immigrants in the U.S. since massive demonstrations were held on the date in 2006 against a proposed immigration enforcement bill.

In recent years, immigrant rights protests shrank as groups diverged and shifted their focus on voter registration and lobbying. Larger crowds are expected to return this year as immigrant groups have joined with Muslim organizations, women's advocates and others in their united opposition to Trump administration policies.

"We have never seen such an outpouring of support since we have since the election of Donald Trump," said Kica Matos, a spokeswoman for the Fair Immigration Reform Movement.

As Trump approaches his first 100 days, he has aggressively pursued immigration enforcement, including executive orders for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and a ban on travelers from six predominantly Muslim countries. The government has arrested thousands of immigrants in the country illegally and threatened to withhold funding from jurisdictions that limit cooperation between local and federal immigration authorities.

In response, local leaders have vowed to fight back and civic participation has seen a boost, including February's "Day Without Immigrants." The travel ban and sanctuary order were temporarily halted by legal challenges.

Nonprofit looks to overhaul processes without losing long-time volunteers

Q: I manage a nonprofit book store and we are planning to introduce some new financial practices. My problem is that we have long-standing volunteers who are set in their ways and don't like change. I feel quite sure that they will not be happy about these new procedures.

Because the store has always been run rather informally, we want to begin managing our funds in a more professional manner. We need to keep better records, balance accounts regularly and store cash more securely. How can I explain this to the volunteers without creating a mutiny or causing hurt feelings?

A: Managing volunteers can be a tricky business, so you are wise to consider their reactions. Since change often triggers an emotional response, some resistance is probably inevitable. However, these policies are clearly needed, because many nonprofits have faced disastrous consequences from poor financial controls.

To accept change, people must first understand why it's necessary. If your volunteers are unfamiliar with good management practices, tighter control may seem to imply a lack of trust. To dispel that misperception, consider bringing in a credentialed and credible speaker to discuss fiscal responsibility.

Next, try to understand the change from a volunteer perspective. Solicit questions, address concerns, invite feedback and adopt any reasonable suggestions. If their work will become more complicated, describe your plans for training. Involving them in the process will not only reduce resistance, but it may also improve implementation.

Finally, express sincere appreciation for all the time your unpaid helpers have donated over the years. Because volunteers tend to be dedicated folk, most of them should understand and adapt. But if some diehards stubbornly refuse to comply, then you must sadly bid them farewell.

Q: As a manager, I don't know how to handle three staff members who have no respect for authority. These young women feel entitled to speak their mind, use profanity and tell their superiors what to do. They apparently believe they know more than anyone, especially me.

I'm pleased that these three work well together, but it feels as though they constantly gang up on me. Others have noticed their defiance and commented on it. How should I deal with this?

A: Just as bratty children reflect overly permissive parenting, disruptive employees are a sign of weak leadership. Regrettably, you appear to be a wimpy manager, my term for bosses who are uncomfortable using the authority of their position. Because these timid souls fear performance discussions, they often let difficult people run amok.

To solve this problem, you must toughen up your leadership style without becoming the office dictator. Wimpy managers who try to reform often go to the other extreme, which creates a whole new set of issues. Instead, you should find a middle ground where you can calmly tackle problems in a firm and confident manner.

If this transformation sounds difficult, look for helpful role models. Identify respected managers who would never tolerate this behavior and then try to follow their example. Even better, find a mentor who can help you practice taking a stand with these young upstarts. Some people only respect authority when that authority is clearly demonstrated.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.

World

Lawmakers seal deal on $1T plan govt-wide funding bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional Republicans and Democrats forged a hard-won agreement Sunday night on a huge $1 trillion-plus spending bill that would fund the day-to-day operations of virtually every federal agency through September, denying President Donald Trump funding for a border wall and rejecting his cuts to popular domestic programs.

AP

In this Thursday, April 27, 2017, photo, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, of N.Y., speaks to reporters during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Schumer says the $1 trillion plan funding the government through September is a "good agreement for the American people, and takes the threat of a government shutdown off the table."

Aides to lawmakers involved in the talks announced the agreement after weeks of negotiations. It's expected to be made public early Monday.

The catchall spending bill would be the first major piece of bipartisan legislation to advance during Trump's short tenure in the White House. While losing on the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump won a $15 billion down payment on his request to strengthen the military.

The measure funds the remainder of the 2017 budget year, rejecting cuts to popular domestic programs targeted by Trump, such as medical research and infrastructure grants.

Successful votes later this week would also clear away any remaining threat of a government shutdown - at least until the Oct. 1 start of the 2018 budget year. Trump has submitted a partial 2018 budget promising a 10 percent increase for the Pentagon, financed by cuts to foreign aid and other nondefense programs that negotiators on the pending measure protected.

Democrats were quick off the mark to praise the deal.

"This agreement is a good agreement for the American people, and takes the threat of a government shutdown off the table," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a key force in the talks. "The bill ensures taxpayer dollars aren't used to fund an ineffective border wall, excludes poison pill riders, and increases investments in programs that the middle class relies on, like medical research, education and infrastructure."

Trump said at nearly every campaign stop last year that Mexico would pay for the 2,000-mile (3218.54-kilometer) border wall, a claim Mexican leaders have repeatedly rejected. The administration sought some $1.4 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars for the wall and related costs in the spending bill, but Trump later relented and said the issue could wait until September.

14 killed by storms and flooding in South, Midwest

CANTON, Texas (AP)—At least 14 people have been killed by tornadoes or flooding in the South and Midwest by a storm that also dumped a rare late-season blizzard in western Kansas on Sunday.

Tornadoes hit several small towns in East Texas, killing four people. Five people were killed by flooding and winds in Arkansas, including a fire chief who was struck by a vehicle while working during the storm. Two deaths were reported in Missouri, including a woman who drowned after rushing water swept away a car. One of two deaths in Mississippi included a 7-year-old who died by electric shock and a 2-year-old girl died in Tennessee after being struck by a soccer goal post thrown by heavy winds.

Flooding closed part of Interstate 44 near Hazelgreen, Missouri, and officials expected it would be at least a day before the highway reopened. Interstate 70 in western Kansas was closed because crews were waiting for snow falling at 3 to 4 inches (8 to 10 cm) an hour being blown by 35 mph (56 km/hr) winds to subside.

In Arkansas, Cove Creek/ Pearson Fire Chief Doug Decker died shortly before 4 a.m. Sunday after being struck by a vehicle while checking water levels on Highway 25 near Quitman, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Little Rock, Trooper Liz Chapman said. The volunteer chief's death will be included as a storm-related death.

A 2-year-old girl in Tennessee died after being struck by a heavy, metal soccer goal post that was blown over by high winds, The Metro Nashville Police Department posted on its Twitter page on Sunday evening.

Melanie Espinoza Rodriguez was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead, according to a second post from the department.

Middle Tennessee was hit by a strong line of storms that knocked down trees and power lines earlier Sunday.

Rescuers in northwest Arkansas continued Sunday to look for an 18-month-old girl and a 4-year-old boy who were in a vehicle swept off a bridge by floodwaters in Hindsville, the Madison County Sheriff's Office said.

In northwest Arkansas, a 10-year-old girl drowned in Springdale and the body of a woman who disappeared riding an inner tube Saturday was found in a creek in Eureka Springs. Also, a 65-year-old woman in DeWitt in the eastern part of the state was struck and killed in her home by a falling tree, officials said.

Asia

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while addressing the media following the conclusion of the 30th ASEAN Leaders' Summit in Manila, Philippines, Saturday, April 29, 2017. AP

PH: Trump called Duterte to affirm alliance

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump has called Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte and expressed Washington's commitment to their treaty alliance and his interest in developing "a warm, working relationship," a Filipino official said Sunday.

Presidential spokesman Ernie Abella said Trump mentioned he was looking forward to visiting the Philippines in November to attend an East Asia summit that Duterte will host with several world leaders and that Trump invited Duterte to visit the White House.

"The discussion that transpired between the presidents was warm, with President Trump expressing his understanding and appreciation of the challenges facing the Philippine president, especially on the matter of dangerous drugs," Abella said in a statement.

A White House statement described late Saturday's call as "very friendly" and said the U.S.-Philippine alliance "is now heading in a very positive direction."

Trump's chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said the friendlier ties are needed even with concerns about Duterte's human rights record, which includes extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and users as part of the government's drug war. Priebus cited the military threat of North Korea.

"The purpose of this call is all about North Korea," Priebus told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. "It doesn't mean that human rights don't matter."

Abella's remarks reflect the friendlier attitude Duterte has taken with Trump versus the antagonistic stance he had toward President Barack Obama, who he once asked to "go to hell" for criticizing the Philippine leader's bloody anti-drug crackdown. During Obama's final months in office, the Philippine president moved to build closer economic ties with China and Russia while repeatedly threatening to end his nation's longstanding military alliance with the U.S.

Duterte's apparent dislike for Obama began when the U.S. State Department expressed concern over his drug war—which has left thousands of suspects dead—and asked Philippine government officials to take steps to stop extrajudicial killings.

At one point Duterte suggested he may even move to abrogate a 2014 defense agreement that allows U.S. military access to five Philippine military camps.

He has walked back most of those threats but has proceeded with his efforts to align closer with China.

On Sunday, three Chinese navy ships, including a guided-missile destroyer and a guided-missile frigate, were welcomed in Davao city, Duterte's southern hometown, by officials, including presidential daughter and city Mayor Sarah Duterte, military officials said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

N. Korean missile test fails hours after UN meeting on nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean mid-range ballistic missile apparently failed shortly after launch Saturday, South Korea and the United States said, the third test-fire flop just this month but a clear message of defiance as a U.S. supercarrier conducts drills in nearby waters. North Korean ballistic missile tests are banned by the United Nations because they're seen as part of the North's push for a nuclear-tipped missile that can strike the U.S. mainland. The latest test came as U.S. officials pivoted from a hard line to diplomacy at the U.N. in an effort to address what may be Washington's most pressing foreign policy challenge. President Donald Trump said on Twitter, "North Korea disrespected the wishes of China & its highly respected President when it launched, though unsuccessfully, a missile today. Bad!" He did not answer reporters' questions about the missile launch upon returning to the White House from a day trip to Atlanta.

PH goes easy on China in final ASEAN statement

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines followed up a summit of Southeast Asian leaders by releasing a final communique Sunday that removed mention of international concerns over China's "militarization" of newly built islands in the disputed South China Sea in a major concession to Beijing. The 25-page statement issued by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte following the daylong meeting of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations he hosted in Manila also made no direct mention of his country's landmark arbitration victory against China last year. A vague reference to the ruling was removed from a part of the communique that discussed the long-seething territorial conflicts and moved elsewhere in the document. The changes were apparent based on a previous draft of the communique seen by The Associated Press. A foreign diplomat based in Manila told the AP that the Philippines circulated a stronger draft statement to other ASEAN member states, which was backed by countries like Vietnam.

World

Maduro hikes minimum wage amid rising protests

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro hiked wages and handed out hundreds of free homes Sunday amid his efforts to counter a strengthening protest movement seeking his removal.

On his regular television show, "Sundays with Maduro," the president ordered a 60 percent increase in the country's minimum wage starting Monday. It was the third pay increase the socialist leader has ordered this year and the 15th since he became president in 2013.

It is small solace to workers who seen the buying power of their earnings eroded by a sinking currency and the world's highest inflation—forecast to accelerate to 2,000 percent next year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

With the latest wage increase and mandatory food subsidies, the minimum take home pay for millions of Venezuelans now stands at 200,000 bolivars a month—or less than $50 at the widely used black market rate.

"We're here to take care of the workers, those who are most humble, and not the privileges of the oligarchs," Maduro said.

In addition to the pay hike, he announced a special "economic war" bonus to retirees to make up for what he says are attempts by the opposition to sabotage the economy.

The president also watched as officials in several states handed over the keys to hundreds of new apartments, some built with Chinese funding, bringing to 1.6 million the number of public housing units built by a program started by the late President Hugo Chavez.

The announcements came as government supporters and Maduro's opponents prepared for rival marches to commemorate May Day on Monday.

Twenty-nine people have been killed, hundreds injured and more than 1,300 arrested during a month of protests that are the bloodiest to hit Venezuela since anti-government unrest in 2014 resulted in more than 40 dead.

Protesters accuse Maduro of taking Venezuela down the path of dictatorship, unrest triggered by the government-stacked Supreme Court stripping congress of its last vestiges of power. They are demanding early elections and freedom for dozens of political prisoners as a way out of the stalemate.

The opposition blames the recent deaths on security forces and pro-government militias for the deaths. The government has complained of what it considers biased media coverage that will pave the way for some sort of foreign intervention in Venezuela.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez met with foreign correspondents for a second straight week to present the government's case.

Rodriguez sought to "completely disprove" the opposition's claim that security forces fired a tear gas canister which hit the chest of 20-year-old college student and killed him died during a protest in Caracas last week. She said there were strong indications that the youth, Juan Pablo Pernalete, might have been killed with a cattle stun gun used against him by fellow protesters.

As political tensions have mounted, Maduro, a former bus driver, has worked hard to reinforce his everyman image. In recent days he has appeared on state TV tossing a baseball around with aides, rapping with a hip-hop group and taking first lady Cilia Flores on a popular tourist gondola to the top of Avila Mountain overlooking Caracas.

Macron's startup-style campaign upends French expectations

POITIERS, France (AP)—Whether or not Emmanuel Macron wins the French presidency in next Sunday's runoff, he has already accomplished the unthinkable.

That's thanks to an unorthodox, American-style grassroots campaign, which has harvested ideas from the left and the right, tossed them with a dose of startup culture and business school acumen and produced a political phenomenon. Without a party to back him up or any experience stumping for votes, the 39-year-old Macron came out on top of the first round of the French presidential vote, winning over 8 million voters and overturning decades of French political expectations.

An inside look by The Associated Press at Macron's campaign found a mix of high-tech savvy, political naivete and a jarring disconnect between his multilingual, well-traveled campaign team and a mass of ordinary voters who have never left France and fear being crushed by immigration and job losses.

"It's not a done deal," campaign spokeswoman Laurence Haim told The AP during a campaign trip Saturday, careful to insist that, despite polls naming Macron the election favorite, risks remain. "We are extremely cautious."

The centrist Macron is facing off against far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen in the presidential runoff.

Detractors dub Macron a bubble that, if elected, would deflate and self-destruct at the first national crisis. Le Pen labels him a puppet of the borderless financial and political elite at a time when many workers feel like globalization roadkill.

Le Pen's campaign is unusual in its own ways. She has broadened her support base far beyond the xenophobic old guard associated with her National Front party when her father Jean-Marie was in charge. Today the people stumping for Le Pen votes at farmers' markets and university campuses include the children of immigrants, academics, gays and former communists. She is also campaigning in her own name—not that of her party, a clear bid to distance herself from its past stigma.

Macron's team wants to puncture the heterogeneous image of Le Pen's campaign, and paints her as a closed-minded nationalist with a dangerous populist vision.

"It's a fight between two different kinds of societies, for France and for Europe," Haim said. "We are going to show the French people—and hopefully the world—that we are fighting for something bigger than us."

Focus

By REESE DUNKLIN and EMILY SCHMALL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
The daughter of LaToya Johnson pets the family cat at their home Friday, April 28, 2017, in San Diego. Johnson says her daughter was fondled in an elementary school bathroom by other students. It's one of thousands of cases student-on-student sex assault in K-12 AP found in a yearlong investigation.

A closer look at littlest victims of schoolhouse assaults

The children were confused, scared and hurt. In their own words, they did their best to convey what other students had done to them in the school restroom, the gym and the bus. What their families learned left them shaken and set up an unexpected, adversarial relationship with their school districts.

Student-on-student sexual assaults rise significantly during middle-school years, an Associated Press analysis of federal crime data found. But even as early as kindergarten and first grade, children can be at risk: About 5 percent of all sexual attacks reported on school property in a recent two-year period happened to 5 and 6 year olds, according to the AP analysis.

Little boys made up about 41 percent of the youngest victims - significantly higher than at other times in their school years. Among teens, boys comprised only about 10 percent of reported victims.

Overall, the data showed children were almost always violated by someone their own age. Unwanted fondling was the most common type of assault; about 20 percent of the victims were subjected to rape, sodomy or other form of penetration.

Most sexual assaults of children by other children happened at a private residence, but schools were the second-most common location, representing about 9 percent of the total incidents.

"The question for schools is: How do we prevent it, how can we address it, and how can we support our students who may be survivors?" said Fatima Goss Graves, chief executive-elect of the National Women's Law Center, which won a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1999 that established schools' responsibilities for responding to peer-on-peer sexual assault.

AP's analysis was based on the most recent two years of available data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System, which contains crime reports from about a third of the nation's law enforcement agencies. Some of the nation's largest cities are not represented in the voluntary reporting program, however, and the data does not reveal the outcome of cases.

Here is a closer look at some of the littlest victims AP found:

Allentown School District
Allentown, Pennsylvania, 2003-2004, 2013

After the first-grader came home from Jefferson Elementary School in 2013 and told his mother that his "pee-pee hurt," she found him red, swollen and bloody. While washing his hands at a bathroom sink, he said, an older student had pulled down his pants, grabbed his penis and punched him in the face. The student warned, "If you tell, I'm going to do this again," court records show. The district said it investigated and ultimately disputed the allegation, but paid a settlement to end the family's lawsuit. Just months before that boy's case, the district had settled a U.S. Justice Department investigation into similar incidents at another Allentown school. Justice accused the district of knowing a fifth-grade boy was allegedly sexually assaulting younger students in bathrooms at Central Elementary in 2003 and 2004, and failing to take enough action - or, in some cases, any action - to prevent it. The families of three first-grade boys came forward in a lawsuit against the district in 2006, and those allegations eventually spurred Justice to join the case. In all, seven boys said they were victimized. The district denied all the allegations, but settled the lawsuit in 2012 and agreed to court-enforced safety improvements. Since then, a judge has twice agreed to Justice requests to extend oversight of the district after the department cited unchanged policies, including failures to provide staff and student training. The district, which remains under monitoring until August, says it is making "good-faith attempts to remedy every deficiency."

Gwinnett County Public Schools
Suwanee, Georgia, 2016

The 5-year-old cried in his mother's car after school, saying he didn't want to be friends with a classmate anymore. He later confided to his stepsister what he'd been too scared to tell anyone else: A fellow kindergartner at Level Creek Elementary School had threatened to punch him in the face if he didn't pull down his pants, according to a police report filed by the boy's family. Frightened, the boy said he did as he was told and his classmate performed oral sex on him. The boy's parents contacted Suwanee police, who interviewed the boy and his family but then forwarded the case to school district police, saying they didn't have jurisdiction. A school resource officer later told the mother that "due to the ages of the involved there are no criminal charges," according to a district police supervisor's email. The supervisor said the mother understood and did not want her son interviewed. A day later, after inquiries from a local reporter, the district issued a public statement saying the boy had been "inappropriately touched" but that his parents "indicated they did not want to pursue prosecution." The parents disputed that in a local TV interview and said they saw school security footage that supported their son's account. The district, which disagreed about the footage, said it didn't have "sufficient corroborating evidence to warrant further action in the absence of an interview of the alleged victim." The investigation remains open.

Monroe County Schools
Peterstown, West Virginia, 2016

The 6-year-old stepped off the school bus on a cold January day with his coat open. A relative waiting to pick him up offered to fasten it. Instead, the kindergartener wanted help zipping and buttoning his pants, explaining that an older student had been playing a "doctor" game on him. In an interview with a child-abuse examiner, the boy said he had been forced into oral sex and fondled several times by the older student, then age 16. Police reviewed the bus's surveillance camera footage and corroborated at least one sexual assault against the boy, along with other suspicious behavior by the other student, according to his family's lawsuit. The district did not contest that in its legal response or that another child had provided a statement describing the older student's conduct. Younger and older bus riders were supposed to sit separately, but the driver failed to enforce that policy, the Monroe County district acknowledged. The student was expelled a year later, prosecuted as a juvenile and sentenced to a rehabilitation center, according to the family's suit. He had a disciplinary history in Monroe County and another district, including a suspension for "indecent behavior." Monroe County knew about that record and that its buses were having safety problems. According to a 2013 superintendent's memo, there had been two allegations of "inappropriate sexual touching" of elementary students and three students were expelled for "inappropriate sexual behavior." The memo said the superintendent told the transportation department to create seating charts for buses and keep boys and girls from each other "to reduce the opportunity for sexual contact."

San Diego Unified School District
San Diego, California, 2013-2014

The 5-year-old kindergartener came home from Green Elementary school in May 2013 and told his parents about a "gross thing" that had happened in the school bathroom: A classmate had pulled down his pants, sucked his penis and demanded the boy reciprocate. The boy's parents alerted the principal, who later testified that he reported the incident to child protective services. But when they followed up with him before the start of the next school year, the principal acted as if he didn't know what they were talking about, according to a letter from the parents' attorney. The school district, on behalf of the principal, declined AP's requests for comment. A year later, an internal investigator was assigned to the case and eventually reported finding other school incidents of student-on-student sex assault, according to district records. The boy's case against the school district for negligence and violating Title IX ended with a $105,000 settlement, terms of which were kept confidential. In May 2014, a 7-year-old first-grader at the same school told her mother, LaToya Johnson, that three older girls had touched her vagina in a bathroom stall. The girl has vocal cord paralysis and couldn't scream for help, her mother said. Johnson, who spoke to AP publicly in hopes of bringing about change, later sued the school district and a proposed settlement agreement is pending. A U.S. Education Department investigation, triggered by the first case, resulted in the district agreeing to create guidelines for elementary school principals on how to handle students' sexual harassment and assault complaints.

Lincoln County School District
Newport, Oregon, 2009-2010

For months, the parents of five first-grade students at Sam Case Elementary attributed their children's behavioral problems to the recent merger of two schools. One mother told AP her son had nightmares and soiled his pants. A second child protested daily, "I don't want to go to school!" Only later, the child's mother said, did she learn that her 6-year-old daughter had been groped in the classroom reading corner and threatened with death if she told anyone. State records show that another parent complained his son had witnessed a 6-year-old exposing himself on a school bus. School officials were first alerted in fall 2009 to a possible problem with the boy accused in both incidents when his family sought help in dealing with "problems at home," including bed-wetting. The principal and staff members met later with the boy's parents to discuss "inappropriate touching of other students," state records show. But no one from the school notified the state's child welfare office, law enforcement or any of the other children's parents. The parents of the five alleged victims, however, had pieced together their children's shared experiences and, in March 2010, one of them notified police. In April 2011, the principal and two teachers pleaded no contest to failure to report child abuse and were fined $648, court records show. The families later sued the district and settled in 2014 for $250,000. Three of the five children never returned to the school; one mother said her son remains in therapy seven years later and another mother told AP her child is "scared to death of the world." The accused boy remained at the school.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Honda brings Civic hatch back in style

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TNS
The 2017 Honda Civic Hatchback is more than 4 inches shorter than the sedan, and a bit taller while maintaining the same interior roominess. That results in a more fastback—or insect-back, depending on who you ask—curve of the roofline.

Good things don't necessarily come in small packages. It's more like good things make great use of space. The 2017 Honda Civic hatchback is one of the roomiest compact hatches, which makes it competitive not just with other hatches but with America's darling, the compact crossover.

The Civic hatch returns after a 12-year hiatus in the American market, riding a swell of popularity after the redesigned Honda Civic sedan, which won 2016 North American Car of the Year.

Like the sedan, the Civic hatch swings from the boring side of its predecessor to the edgy. It's over 4 inches shorter than the sedan, and a bit taller while maintaining the same interior roominess. That results in a more fastback — or insect-back, depending on who you ask — curve of the roofline. The front and rear overhangs are short, with a black splitter up front and black accents on the rockers below the doors. There are giant black vents in the fascia that more functionally house fog lights. The black wheels on our top of line Sport Touring trim complement the black cladding on the mirror mounts and window trim. It all looks pretty impressive.

The rear is where things can get wacky. There's an integrated rear spoiler in the hatch roof, and a wing on the hatch that bridges the C-shaped taillights. Giant black vents flank the center-mounted twin tailpipes for no apparent reason other than looks. It evokes a European hot hatch without any hotness coming from the 180-horsepower turbocharged engine.

It looks better suited for the 306-horsepower Type R hot hatch finally arriving on U.S. shores this spring. The 1.5-liter engine in the Civic hatch is efficient more so than powerful, averaging a combined 32 mpg that we were easily able to beat. For more driving thrills, opt for the six-speed manual available on the Sport trim instead of the fuel-saving continuously variable transmission. The powertrain is fine at this price; there's a little lag when the pedal is mashed, but the handling is solid enough to have fun in the turns.

The fully loaded Sport Touring impresses on the inside, especially with the clever use of space. The center console has a configurable storage area that can hide cup holders when not in use. The elbow rest slides forward above it, or it can be slid back to fit two smaller drinks, more European than American-sized. Then there's a storage console. Another storage area is hidden beneath the center stack to charge phones or hide valuables. A cord portal to the storage shelf under the climate buttons means there's easy phone access while charging.

The bug-back hatch tops the competition with 25.7 cubic feet of cargo room. We fit two hockey bags, which we can't do in some compact crossovers. There's also a neat tonneau cover that rolls up into the size of a rolling pin, and can be mounted on either the left or right side or easily stowed in one of the door side panels, meaning there's no long bar that either needs to be removed from the car or stored lengthwise when the seats are down.

The aggressive styling carries over to the instrument cluster and steering wheel. Red accent lights sharpen the gauges on Sport Touring, and a 7-inch display lets drivers toggle between audio and nav functions.

That part of the system, though, feels like as big a missed opportunity as the touch screen. You can change radio stations but can only look at the other features like navigation, turbo power and fuel economy. To reset the trip odometers, however, you still use the old stick. Accessing phone functions must be done through the touch screen or voice commands.

The touch screen, and the lack of a volume knob, doesn't impress, but few touch screens do. We're relieved there aren't two stacked screens as there are in the Accord: it's just too much to look it. Honda's technology is finally catching up and is leagues better than main rival Toyota.

The Civic in Sport Touring comes standard with Honda Sensing, the $1,000 package of advanced safety features that is so much more impressive than the touch screen.

Honda Sensing includes adaptive cruise control and lane-keep assist, which can maintain the lane and adjust speed to the car in front of it, the precursor to self-driving cars. Many makes offer similar technology, but Honda is one of the first to offer it with what it calls low-speed follow, which can maintain the distance of the lead car to a stop. It also includes LaneWatch, which uses a camera on the right side mirror to project on the screen what's in your blind spot, such as bicyclists. Using the right-turn indicator also temporarily disables voice commands to limit distractions.

While the price tag may seem a lot for this fully loaded hatch, it's actually a good value for everything offered. It's smart, stylish, clever on the inside but a bit too clever on the outside, though it stands out in a field awash with similarity.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Honda Civic Hatchback at a glance

- Vehicle type: Compact hatch
- Base price: $20,500
- As tested: $28,300
- Mpg: 30 city, 36 highway
- Engine: 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- Transmission: Continuously variable
- Parting shot: Aggressive styling, clever design welcome back the hatch.

Motormouth: Hunt for endangered Beetle stick shift comes up empty

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: My daughter drives a hand-me-down 2003 VW New Beetle with a 1.8-liter turbo engine and five-speed manual transmission. We are thinking of buying her a new car next year when she graduates college. She wants another Beetle, and she likes driving a stick. Looking online, I can't seem to find current model Beetles with manual transmissions. Our local dealer tells me that VW does not sell Beetles with manual transmissions here due to the low market demand, and that if she really wants to drive a stick she should consider a Golf. (If it were my choice, I would go with the Golf.) My question therefore is whether VW makes a 2017 or 2018 Beetle with a manual transmission for sale in the U.S., and how do I go about purchasing one? Do I just need to be insistent with the dealer and have them order one for us?

— R.M., Haverford, Pa.

A: Being insistent will get you nowhere. The dealer is right, VW does not sell Beetles with manual transmissions anymore for the reason you were told: low demand. Your best bet may be to buy a used one. The 2015 R-Line is the most recent non-TDI model. Golfs, however, are available with a manual transmission in the S and Wolfsburg models.

Q: I drive a 2013 Ford F-150. I am now getting a "battery saver mode" message after I turn the key to "off" position when the radio is still on. I don't think a new car battery should need replacing in three years. The vehicle still starts right up every time. I have asked different Ford dealers and have received several different responses, from I need a new battery to it could be the battery in my key. What do you think is the issue and how can I solve it?

— D.O., Hingham, Mass.

A: If the battery is getting weak, the vehicle's system will shut off any key-off drains so that you will have enough voltage to start the engine. Yes, your battery is wearing out. When shopping for a new one, the most important consideration is the amp-hour or reserve capacity rating. Reserve capacity describes how many minutes a fully charged battery can be discharged at 25 amps before the voltage drops below 10.5. The battery with higher ampere-hours or reserve capacity will generally last longer. Check the specs on your original equipment battery and choose a better one.

Q: I have owned Buicks and General Motor automobiles for over 40 years. In 2007 I purchased a Buick Lucerne and then in 2010 I purchase another Buick Lucerne. With the previous Buicks and other GM automobiles, I always thought they had a nice comfortable and soft ride. I have been very disappointed with my two Lucernes in the ride performance. Is there anything that can be performed on my present Lucerne to make it a soft comfortable ride like I was used to in my previous automobiles?

— R.B., Lansdale, Pa.

A: Softer ride control components (shocks and struts) may provide a softer ride, but we would not recommend them, even if you could find some. Your original shocks and struts have built-in magnetic ride control for safety and stability. We know of no new Buicks that ride like the old Roadmasters.

Life & Style

DeGeneres, Harvey among top Daytime Emmy winners

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Ellen DeGeneres Show" won the Daytime Emmy Award for best entertainment talk show Sunday, 20 years to the day that her character came out as gay on the sitcom "Ellen."

"She did it because it was the right thing to do," said Mary Connelly, "Ellen" executive producer, of DeGeneres' decision to be open about her sexuality and do the same for her character in 1997. DeGeneres was absent and Connelly accepted the award.

"General Hospital" was honored as best daytime drama, with top acting awards going to Scott Clifton for "The Bold and the Beautiful" and Gina Tognoni for "The Young and the Restless."

Clifton became the first actor to receive Daytime Emmys in the categories of best younger, supporting and lead actor in his career.

Steve Harvey skipped the ceremony but was a double winner. He was named best game show host for "Family Feud" and best host of an informative talk show for "Steve Harvey."

"Good Morning America" won the best morning program trophy, while "The Dr. Oz Show" claimed the best informative talk show award. "Jeopardy!" was honored as best game show.

Sheryl Underwood, host with Mario Lopez of the live-streamed ceremony, also accepted the best entertainment talk show host award with fellow "The Talk" hosts including Sara Gilbert.

"Entertainment Tonight" was named best entertainment news program, and former "ET" anchor Mary Hart accepted a lifetime achievement award. Hart recounted the skepticism that greeted "ET" in the early 1980s when it launched TV's now-flourishing Hollywood news magazine genre.

Globalism reigns at box office, while 'Furious' passes $1B

NEW YORK (AP)—A South India sensation, a Hispanic-focused comedy and the highest-grossing film ever directed by an African American made up the top three films in North America on a culturally diverse box office weekend.

As expected, it was another runaway weekend for "The Fate of the Furious," which took No. 1 for the third straight week with $19.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Universal Pictures release also throttled past $1 billion globally, and passed its predecessor, "Furious 7," to become the highest-grossing imported film in China with $361 million.

The "Fast and the Furious" franchise, the latest of which is helmed by F. Gary Gray, has always been held up as a model of the diverse blockbuster, given its cast led by Vin Diesel and Dwayne Johnson. But the smaller films that trailed it over the weekend also reflected the box-office might of often underserved audiences.

In second domestically with $12 million and drawing an overwhelmingly Hispanic crowd was Eugenio Derbez's comedy, "How to Be a Latin Lover." The film is easily the biggest success yet for Pantelion, the Latino-oriented joint venture of Lionsgate and Grupo Televisa.

"How to Be a Latin Lover" co-stars Salma Hayek, Rob Lowe and Kristen Bell. But its top draw is Derbez, whose "Instructions Not Included" was the highest-grossing Spanish-language film in North America in 2013. The audience for "How to be a Latin Lover" was 89 percent Hispanic.

In third was "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion," a so-called Tollywood (Telugu language) film from South India, which pulled in a remarkable $10.1 million despite playing on just 420 screens. ("The Fate of the Furious" played on more than 4,000.)

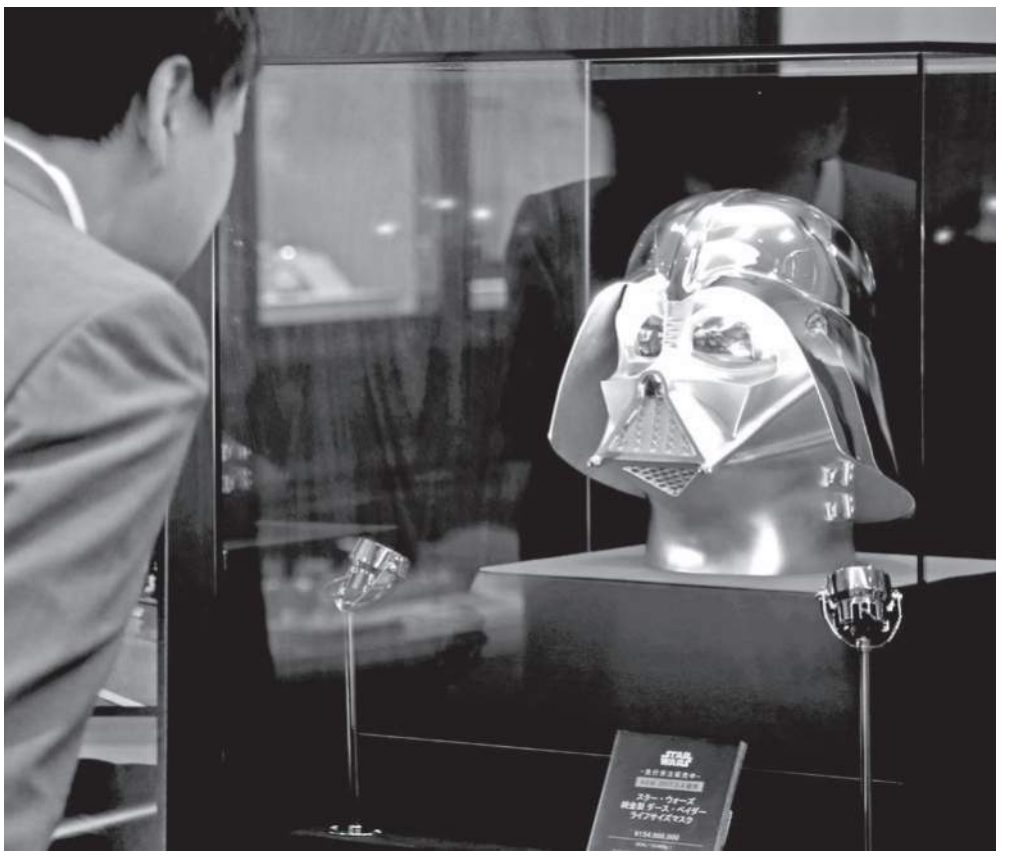
"Baahubali 2" even bested a pair of Hollywood's biggest stars in Emma Watson and Tom Hanks. Their terribly reviewed thriller "The Circle," distributed by STX Films on behalf of EuropaCorp, opened with $9.3 million.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore, said such global weekends at the box office will become more common.

"In what is a slow and would otherwise be unremarkable weekend, this is a really interesting lineup of films," said Dergarabedian. "This is the final weekend before the summer season kicks off and the blockbusters hit theaters. But this weekend is marked by an incredible amount of multicultural content. It reflects the world that we're living in."

The summer movie season begins next week with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2." With the Marvel behemoth on deck, few new films were released in an otherwise quiet weekend.

1. "**The Fate of the Furious**," $19.4 million *($68.4 million international)*.
2. "**How to Be a Latin Lover**," $12 million.
3. "**Baahubali 2: The Conclusion**," $10.1 million *($3.7 million international)*.
4. "**The Circle**," $9.3 million.
5. "**The Boss Baby**," $9.1 million *($15.5 million international)*.
6. "**Beauty and the Beast**," $6.4 million *($17.2 million international)*.
7. "**Going in Style**," $3.6 million *($3 million international)*.
8. "**Smurfs: The Lost Village**," $3.3 million *($11.7 million international)*.
9. "**Gifted**," $3.3 million.
10. "**Unforgettable**," $2.3 million.



HEFTY MASK AP

Tokyo gold jeweler Ginza Tanaka's employee looks at the gold mask of Darth Vader at the jewelry shop in Tokyo, Monday, May 1, 2017. The life-size mask of Star Wars villain Darth Vader will be up for sale for a hefty price of 154 million yen ($1.38 million). The 24-karat mask was created by the gold jeweler to mark the 40th anniversary since the release of the first Star Wars film.

Lost tooth leads to surprise attraction to dental student

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, I lost a tooth. I'm a 56-year-old woman on disability, short on funds to rectify the problem, so I visited my local hospital's dental clinic. I hadn't visited a dentist in years, so I was quite fearful.

The clinic allows a dental resident to work on your issue under the supervision of a practiced dentist. The work I needed was performed every two weeks for about four months. What I did not count on was becoming seriously attracted to a 29-year-old resident I'll call "Justin."

At first, I couldn't believe it was possible, given the fact that I'm old enough to be his mother and my ex-husband is a doctor. I was a teacher and I know all the "rules." In fairness, in NO WAY did Justin or I do or say anything inappropriate. Still, certain circumstances led me to believe that he felt the same about me. Neither of us acted on this.

My question: The work has been over for months, but some days the memories are so intense, I can't get him out of my mind. I don't know how to handle this. Please help.

UNEXPECTED IN NEW YORK

DEAR UNEXPECTED: The "rules" you referred to are a code of ethics that professionals are expected to adhere to. The way to handle your feelings would be to consider that if Justin were to act on the feelings you think he shared with you, he could lose his job, and the future he has worked so hard to build would be destroyed. If you care about him at all beyond your attraction, you will not pursue this further.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about how to proceed with expressing sympathy for an old friend.

My husband and I were very close friends with a couple for about eight years. We moved away, but continued to see each other occasionally. We kept in touch, and in the past few years have been able to visit more frequently. When we were in their city six months ago, we saw them a few times and they mentioned that they had no friends. I know she has no siblings or parents left.

Her husband died suddenly of a stroke five months ago. They were together for 50 years. I sent her a formal sympathy note and three more casual follow-ups. I also wrote a poem in his memory. It may seem excessive, but I remember how bereft she felt when her sister died, and she felt that sympathy was not sufficiently extended (I don't think she was pointing the finger at me).

Abby, I don't want her to think that we aren't feeling a lot of sympathy for her. Yet her silence indicates that either our overtures are unwanted or that her condition is so bad that she's emotionally overwhelmed. When does an old friend stop reaching out?

BEWILDERED IN OHIO

DEAR BEWILDERED: Call the woman and ASK HER how she's doing. Explain that because you haven't heard from her, you have been concerned.

You are a caring friend, but there is only so much anyone can do via long distance. It's possible that because her husband's death was unexpected, she has had her hands full learning how to take care of the details that he managed while he was alive.

If she's not doing well, suggest she join a support group so she won't be isolated in her grief. And recognize that, as much as you wish to support her, she will have to forge her own way through her heartache.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

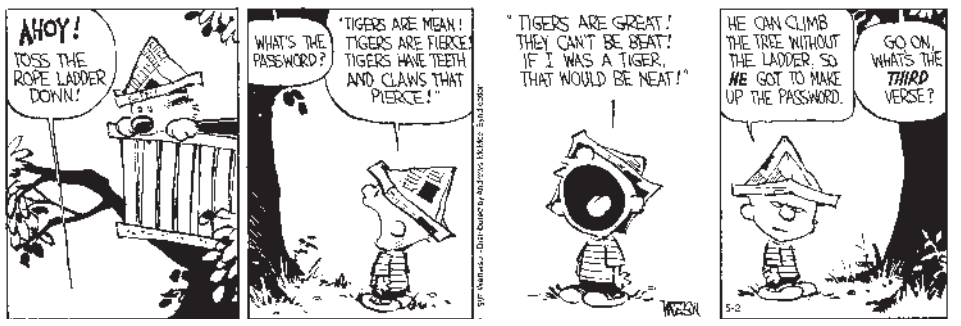
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

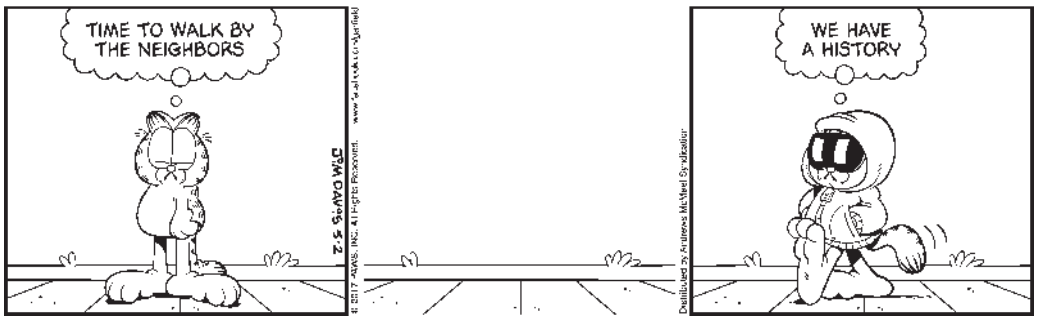
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AHOY! TOSS THE ROPE LADDER DOWN!
WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?
"TIGERS ARE MEAN! TIGERS ARE FIERCE! TIGERS HAVE TEETH AND CLAWS THAT PIERCE!"
"TIGERS ARE GREAT! THEY CAN'T BE BEAT! IF I WAS A TIGER, THAT WOULD BE NEAT!"
HE CAN CLIMB THE TREE WITHOUT THE LADDER. SO HE GOT TO MAKE UP THE PASSWORD.
GO ON, WHAT'S THE THIRD VERSE?

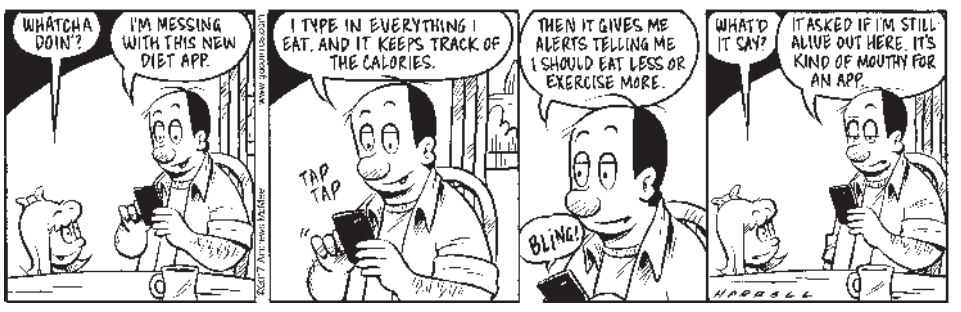
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



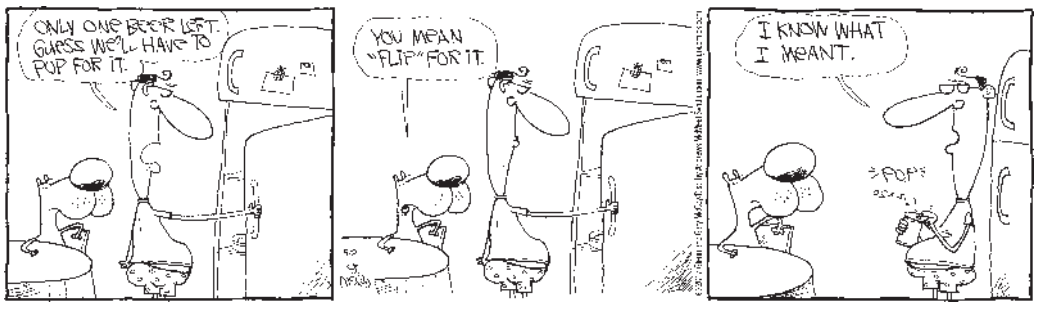
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHATCHA DOIN'?
I'M MESSING WITH THIS NEW DIET APP.
I TYPE IN EVERYTHING I EAT, AND IT KEEPS TRACK OF THE CALORIES.
TAP TAP
THEN IT GIVES ME ALERTS TELLING ME I SHOULD EAT LESS OR EXERCISE MORE.
BLING!
WHAT'D IT SAY?
IT ASKED IF I'M STILL ALIVE OUT HERE. IT'S KIND OF MOUTHY FOR AN APP.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dealer's foe
5 Rocker Clapton
9 WWII servicewoman
12 Done with
13 Travel permit
14 Fireplace residue
15 Like some bonds
17 Noon, on a sundial
18 Existed
19 Capital of Jordan
21 No longer wild
24 Matty of baseball
25 Russian river
26 Bach, Beethoven or Brahms
30 Repair
31 "— nice day!"
32 Vichy water
33 Lustrous fabrics
35 Foolproof
36 Woody's son
37 Office part-timers
38 Summary
40 Swiss river
42 Suitable
43 You dial it to send pages
48 "The Matrix" role
49 Squad
50 Theater section
51 Aachen article
52 Minus
53 Meditative practice

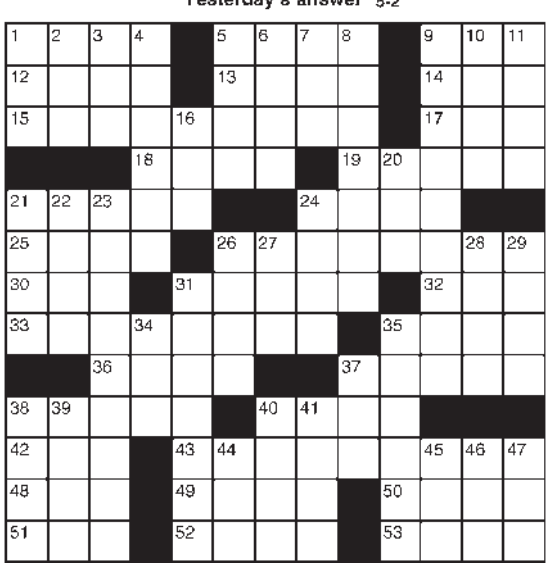
DOWN

1 Word of denial
2 Gardner of film
3 Mardi Gras VIP
4 Embroidery yarn
5 Always
6 Frost
7 AOL, for one
8 Tree with beanlike pods
9 Madame Tussaud's gallery
10 Nepal's continent
11 Goatee's spot
16 Marked (a ballot)
20 Cattle call?
21 Clump of grass
22 Met melody
23 Cosmetics line from Coty
24 Iowa city
26 Roman censor
27 Eggs
28 Lawman Wyatt
29 Regrets
31 Of assistance
34 Monk's title
35 Fitting
37 Capote nickname
38 McNally partner
39 Duel tool
40 Pivot line
41 Pantry pests
44 Hydrocarbon suffix
45 Scary cry
46 Mayo ingredient
47 Actor Stephen

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	A	M	E		D	U	H			D	R	I	P
T	E	A	L	E	O	N	I			I	A	G	O
D	C	C	O	M	I	C	S			E	N	D	S
				P	U	T		S	A	T	I	R	E
C	U	R	E	S		I	Y	N	E				
O	N	U	S		P	R	E	I	R	M	S		
B	I	G		B	R	O	I	L		O	A	T	
	T	S	E	L	I	O	T		M	A	L	E	
			R	O	M	P		C	I	T	E	D	
D	A	N	U	B	E		A	L	S				
I	S	L	P		V	W	B	E	E	T	L	E	
L	E	T	T		A	R	B	O	R	E	A	L	
I	A	S	S		I	Y	F		Y	F	W	S	

Yesterday's answer 5-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Busch, 32; Ellie Kemper, 35; David Beckham, 42; Dwayne Johnson, 45.

Happy Birthday: Look for balance in your personal life and you'll find comfort and happiness. Spend more time nurturing what's important to you and discovering more about yourself and the things you enjoy doing most. Self-improvement will help build your confidence and give you the courage to bring about the changes that will encourage your peace of mind. Make love a priority. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 27, 34, 43, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make personal changes that will make you feel good about the way you look or present what you have to offer. Don't limit what you can do because someone is pressuring you to skip details that you feel are important to include. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Listen carefully to what's being said. Use charm and diplomacy when dealing with others. Don't reveal personal information, but show interest in what others are doing. The information you receive will help you make wise choices. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You've got all the right moves. Speak up and share your wisdom and you will get what you want. Good fortune is heading in your direction and personal and home improvements will brighten your day. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Show confidence when you present what you have been working on to superiors. A little flair will go a long way, and the less you have to engage in discussing your plans, the smoother your day and dealings will unfold. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You can convince others to get on board and help you turn your dream into a reality. Personal gains and physical changes will bring good results. Personal arrangements will give you something to look forward to. Love conquers all. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Focus on yourself, your health and your financial well-being. Take initiative and do what will bring you the highest returns. Changes at home are encouraged if you take control of the costs involved. Don't act on someone else's word. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Partnerships, contracts and helping others will all play a role in the way you excel. Trust in your intelligence and foresight, not in what others want you to do. Consider how the decisions you make will affect your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't get into a dispute with someone over responsibilities. Make it clear what you are willing to take care of and what you are not. Being open will help to alleviate an emotional turn of events. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A serious approach to what you want to see happen will help you finalize any unfinished business. Speak up and offer ideas, solutions and incentives that will make it impossible for others to say no. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take good care of your health and physical well-being. Don't take chances while operating equipment or traveling. A steady pace and shrewd attitude will help you avoid making a mistake. An unexpected change at home will end up being beneficial. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of physical work first. A chance to relax and enjoy the space you have created will spark your imagination and help you get new projects up and running. Meld the old with the new. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a moment to evaluate your current physical and emotional health. Putting together a plan will give you time to relax and rejuvenate. Someone who owes you a favor will help you out if you ask. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are rambunctious, intelligent and diplomatic. You are outspoken and challenging.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			4	6				5
	2						9	
		1		3		4		
			9		4			2
2		4				6		1
8			7		6			
		7		5		9		
	5						6	
3				9	2			8

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	8	3	5	7	9	6	2	1
1	5	6	2	8	4	7	3	9
2	7	9	3	6	1	4	5	8
8	4	1	9	2	3	5	6	7
9	2	5	7	1	6	8	4	3
3	6	7	4	5	8	1	9	2
6	3	8	1	4	2	9	7	5
7	1	2	6	9	5	3	8	4
5	9	4	8	3	7	2	1	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHUCK BERRY (1926-2017) Solution: 14 letters

A	T	R	E	G	N	I	S	E	U	L	B	N	V	K
W	O	Y	L	L	O	M	D	N	U	O	R	A	I	L
E	D	A	R	L	I	N	N	O	S	R	E	D	N	A
D	D	I	T	N	O	R	P	B	N	O	R	I	Y	W
O	Y	H	R	T	E	A	H	O	L	A	Ⓤ	N	L	K
O	D	C	T	G	E	H	O	Y	W	S	Ⓢ	E	H	C
G	O	S	U	I	N	M	Y	D	T	I	Ⓐ	S	O	U
B	L	I	P	L	M	I	E	C	W	H	S	C	P	D
Y	E	R	K	R	L	S	K	H	A	Y	M	H	P	E
N	M	R	C	A	E	U	C	A	T	G	L	O	I	A
N	A	A	O	L	O	G	A	O	E	D	E	O	N	R
H	R	H	R	O	N	G	B	P	R	E	O	L	G	D
O	T	A	O	P	A	S	N	O	S	B	I	G	B	A
J	H	R	L	O	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	S	P	D
C	A	I	L	Y	D	D	U	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y

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Aloha, Anderson, Around, Back, Blues, Charles, Chess, Darlin', Dear Dad, Duckwalk, Edgy, Edward, Gibson, Henry, Hopping, Ingrid, Ira Harris, Iron, Johnny B Goode, Legacy, Leonard, Lucy, Martha, Melody, Mercury, Molly, Muddy, Nadine, Paul, Polar, Rhythm, Richards, Rock, Roll, School, Singer, Smith, Suggs, Themetta, Toddy, USA, Vinyl, Waters, Wish

Yesterday's Answer: Cracks

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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NOTICE

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") **Board of Directors' Operations Committee** will meet on **Friday, May 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

III. Executive Session***
(Consultation with Legal Counsel on legal matters pertaining to Operations)

IV. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Jazz flatten Clippers, win 1st-round series 4-3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The young Utah Jazz have grown up quickly.

Gordon Hayward scored 26 points and the Jazz eliminated the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday with a 104-91 victory, closing out the first-round series 4-3 to earn the franchise's first postseason victory since 2010.

"We've been through some pretty hard downs," said Hayward, a seventh-year veteran. "It definitely feels really good to go from 25 wins to where we were this year making the playoffs, winning a series."

George Hill and Derrick Favors added 17 points apiece for the Jazz in what proved to be the easiest game of the back-and-forth series.

The Jazz advanced to face top-seeded Golden State in the Western Conference semifinals. The Warriors swept Portland 4-0 and have been waiting since Wednesday to find out their next opponent.

Game 1 is Tuesday in Oakland.

The Clippers' DeAndre Jordan had 24 points and 17 rebounds for his seventh double-double of the series. Jamal Crawford added 20 points off the bench.

Chris Paul had 13 points for the Clippers, who were sent packing in the first round for the second straight year. Last season, they lost to Portland after Paul and Blake Griffin went down with injuries. This time, they didn't have Griffin again after he was lost in Game 3 with a big-toe injury.

"It came down to today to keep us afloat, keep us alive," Paul said. "We're done."

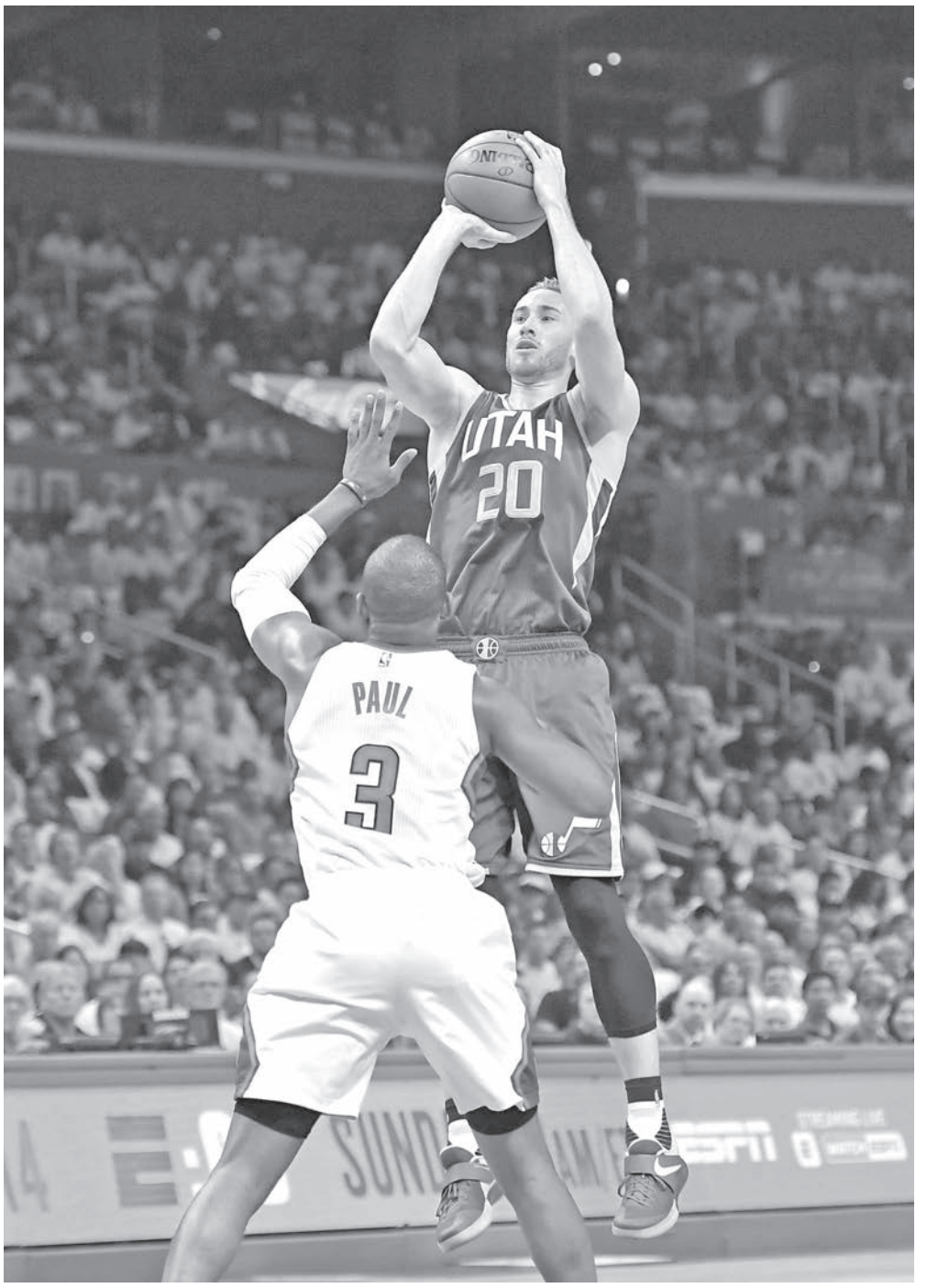
In the most closely contested series of the first round—and the only to go seven games—the Clippers came up strangely flat with their season on the line. J.J. Redick didn't hit his first 3-pointer until the game's final 3 ½ minutes, drawing the Clippers within eight.

"Late, when we did start scoring, we couldn't get stops," Paul said.

He couldn't muster any of his fourth-quarter magic, either. Paul went scoreless with three assists in the period after tweaking an ankle in the third.

"We made it difficult for Chris Paul to get in the lane, get his little pullup jump shot," Hayward said. "Guys on the weak side were rotated, making them make the extra pass and make some other guys try to create for them."

In the fourth, the Jazz were well in command, ahead by 17 points and hardly feeling pressured by foul trouble for Rudy Gobert and Favors, who both fouled out. Gobert finished with one point in 14 minutes.



AP

Utah Jazz forward Gordon Hayward, top, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul defends during the first half in Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Sunday, April 30, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Favors had 11 rebounds off the bench.

"I was struggling a lot this season with injuries and my teammates had to hold it down for me," Favors said. "I felt like I owed them, especially in this game."

The first six games between the fourth-seeded Clippers and No. 5 Utah were decided by eight points or less with Los Angeles outscoring Utah 98.8 points to 98.0 points. The teams had identical 51-31 records in the regular season.

But this one was all Utah in the second half.

The Jazz opened the third on a 23-9 run, extending their lead to 69-48 - largest in the series. Boris Diaw had eight points, Hayward added six and Hill four as the Jazz had three three-point plays.

The Clippers got bogged down with a shot-clock turnover, a delay of game warning and Redick's airball on a 3-point attempt while the home crowd went silent.

This time, the Jazz didn't need the big-shot heroics of Joe Johnson or the presence of Gobert.

The Clippers, whose only lead was one point minutes into the game, shot 44 percent, and were outscored 56-46 in the paint and 12-9 on fastbreak points.

"There's no excuses," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "We lost."

Celtics 123, Wizards 111

In Boston, nothing it seems can stop Isaiah Thomas this postseason—be it pains big or small.

The All-Star led the Celtics to a first-round win over Chicago in a haze after learning the day before that series began that his younger sister, Chyna Thomas, had died in a car accident outside of his native Tacoma, Washington.

That pain persisted on the eve of Boston's second-round pairing with the Washington Wizards, when he flew cross-country to attend her funeral.

Then Sunday's game brought the latest dose of adversity, when he had one of his front teeth dislodged after an early game collision. But as he's done all postseason, he continued to find a way to push through it.

Thomas had 33 points and nine assists, and the Celtics made 19 3-pointers to beat the Wizards 123-111 and take a 1-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal matchup.

"I got in at 4 a.m.," Thomas said of his second flight to Washington in two weeks. "It's tough, but it's the playoffs so there are no excuses. I decided to play and I just tried to give it all for my team."

The Celtics star flew to the funeral with Boston president of basketball operations Danny Ainge and assistant coach Jerome Allen.

During player introductions, Thomas pointed to the TD Garden rafters when his name was called.

Al Horford added 21 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Jae Crowder finished with career playoff-high 24 points.

Game 2 is set for Tuesday night.

The Wizards were more energetic at the outset, jumping out to a 16-0 advantage and leading by as many as 17 points. But the Celtics rallied with Thomas briefly sidelined while getting his tooth repositioned in the second quarter.

"I didn't know if we'd ever score and I didn't know if they've ever stop scoring," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 27 points. John Wall added 20 points and 16 assists.

Washington starter Markieff Morris played just 11 minutes before leaving with a sprained left ankle in the second quarter after landing awkwardly on Horford's foot.

The Wizards also had a tough time responding after Stevens started Marcus Smart in place of Gerald Green in the third quarter.

"They were a little more aggressive than we were," Beal said. "Our defense slipped a little. We lacked some IQ and focus."

A rivalry has been simmering between the teams since last year, when Boston swept the season series.

They split their four regular-season matchups this season, but each included intense moments.

Sunday's matchup was played at just as high a level, with a frenzied pace at times and physical play underneath the basket.

After the Wizards' early scoring flurry, Thomas lost his tooth, but initially kept playing. He found it during a timeout, but started the second quarter in the locker room. His teammates went on a 13-2 run without him to cut into Washington's lead. Boston led by 15 by the end of the third.

We meet again: Cavs, Raptors back together in postseason

CLEVELAND (AP)—We The North vs. We Are The Champions.

One round earlier than a year ago, Toronto and Cleveland are meeting again in the NBA playoffs.

On the way to winning their first title last season, LeBron James and the Cavs took care of the Raptors in the Eastern Conference finals, a series that was tied 2-2 before Cleveland won the final two games. The teams finished this season with identical 51-31 records and their history makes for an intriguing May matchup.

"They know us," James said, "and we know them."

After sweeping Indiana in the opening round, the Cavs will have waited a full week before Monday's Game 1 tips off at Quicken Loans Arena, where Cleveland is 15-1 against conference opponents over the past three postseasons.

The down time gave James and his teammates a chance to recharge, heal some nagging bumps and bruises and prepare for a Toronto team that not only added Serge Ibaka (acquired from Orlando in February) and P.J. Tucker (acquired from Phoenix at the trade deadline) this season, but is looking for revenge after having its season ended by Cleveland in 2016.

These Raptors don't want that to happen again.

"We've got some fighters and scrappers," coach Dwane Casey said after Toronto eliminated Milwaukee in six games. "The guys are going to compete. We make it hard on ourselves sometime, but at the end of the day we're going to go down swinging."

They submitted last year in Game 6 at home, when James scored 33 points with 11 rebounds, six assists and three blocks in Cleveland's 113-87 win.

"He canceled Christmas," Casey said earlier this season. "One of these days ... one of these days."

For the Raptors to knock off the Cavs, whose shaky defense still showed some significant holes against the Pacers, Toronto stars DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry will have to be at their best.

"The two-headed monster," Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue said.

DeRozan averaged 23.5 points per game in the opening round against the Bucks, and may need to bump that into the 30s for the Raptors to have a chance. He believes the Raptors are better equipped to battle the Cavs this time.

"It's just on us to put it together consistently," he said. "We showed spurts of how great of a team we can be then we have lapses here and there. If we come together out there on the floor no matter what happens, as long as we come together, we can compete with anybody."

Toronto lost three of four against Cleveland this season with the only win coming in the season finale, when Lue rested James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love.

Nationals maul Mets, Red Sox beat Cubs

AP

New York Mets third baseman Matt Reynolds (15) misses a ball that went for a hit by Washington Nationals' Joe Ross during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 30, 2017, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)— Anthony Rendon had 10 RBIs, three home runs and six hits as the Washington Nationals took advantage of Noah Syndergaard's injury and mauled the New York Mets 23-5 on Sunday to set a franchise scoring record.

Rendon went a career-best 6 for 6 and scored five times while breaking the club mark for RBIs. He became the 13th player in major league history to drive in 10 or more runs in a game — the first since Garret Anderson did it for the Angels in 2007.

Matt Wieters added two homers, a single and two walks as the Nationals salvaged the finale of a three-game series between NL East rivals. Adam Lind and Bryce Harper also homered while Harper scored four times to set a major league record for runs in April with 32.

Washington finished with a season-high 23 hits and scored the most runs in the history of the Expos/Nationals franchise. The Nationals' seven homers were their most since the team moved from Montreal to Washington in 2005.

Rendon, who began the day with no homers and five RBIs this season, raised his batting average from .226 to .278. He capped his incredible performance with a solo home run off Mets backup catcher Kevin Plawecki in the eighth. Harper and Lind went deep against Plawecki earlier in the inning.

It was a miserable day all-around for the Mets, who won the first two games of the series after losing six straight. They gave up 17 consecutive runs after trailing 6-5 in the fourth.

Syndergaard (1-2), the team's hard-throwing ace, left in the second inning with what the club called "a possible right lat strain" and was on his way back to New York for an MRI on Monday morning.

Red Sox 6, Cubs 2

In Boston, Marco Hernandez scored the go-ahead run on Pedro Strop's wild pitch in Boston's four-run eighth inning.

The Red Sox took two of three in the lively weekend series that featured a strong showing for Cubs fans and the World Series trophies that ended long title droughts for the once-frustrated franchises.

Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run homer for Boston and Matt Barnes (3-0) worked one scoreless inning after completing his four-game suspension for throwing behind the head of Baltimore's Manny Machado.

Kris Bryant hit a solo homer for Chicago, extending his hitting streak to 11 games. Koji Uehara (0-2) got the loss.

Padres 5, Giants 2, 12 innings

In San Francisco, Wil Myers hit a three-run homer in the top of the 12th inning to send San Diego past San Francisco.

Myers' seventh home run and second in two games came off reliever George Kontos (0-2). Cory Spangenberg singled against Kontos leading off the inning and Erick Aybar singled two batters later.

Hector Sanchez, who played parts of five seasons with the Giants, had a pinch-hit, two-run homer off San Francisco closer Mark Melancon in the ninth to send the game to extra innings. Sanchez's first home run of the season handed Melancon his second blown save in seven chances.

Sanchez represented the tying run after shortstop Eduardo Nunez booted Luis Sardinas' leadoff grounder for an error.

Indians 12, Mariners 4

In Cleveland, Michael Brantley homered and Francisco Lindor had a two-run double as Cleveland scored eight times in the third inning against weary Seattle.

Brantley led off the big inning with a single and capped it with a two-run homer. Lindor, who had three RBIs, hit a solo homer in the third and preceded Brantley's homer with his double.

Josh Tomlin (2-3) allowed four runs in five-plus innings for the win. The Mariners began the sixth with six straight hits and scored three times but Nick Goody worked out of a bases-loaded, none-out jam.

Chase De Jong (0-2), making his first major league start, gave up six runs and nine hits in 2 2/3 innings. Nelson Cruz homered for the Mariners, who finished 4-6 on their 11-day road trip.

Roberto Perez had three hits and drove in three runs for the defending AL champions, who have won nine of 12.

Marlins 10, Pirates 3

In Miami, Justin Bour drove in six runs with four hits, both career highs, as Miami rallied from a three-run deficit to end a four-game losing streak by beating Pittsburgh.

Bour had an RBI double in the second, an RBI single in the fourth, a two-run single off Trevor Williams (1-1) in the fifth and a two-run homer in Miami's six-run seventh.

Josh Bell hit a two-run homer for the Pirates but they were shut out over the final 8 2/3 innings.

Angels 5, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, JC Ramirez got his first win as a starter on his fourth try after 111 career relief appearances while Jefry Marte homered and hit a tiebreaking, two-run single to help Los Angeles beat Texas.

Ramirez (3-2) matched his career high from two starts earlier with nine strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

Marte had a solo homer in the ninth. Kole Calhoun also connected for the Angels and Shin-Soo Choo homered for Texas.

Orioles 7, Yankees 4, 11 innings

In New York, Mark Trumbo hit a go-ahead single in a three-run 11th off Bryan Mitchell, who returned to the mound after an unusual inning at first base, as Baltimore rebounded from another blown late lead.

Didi Gregorius hit a two-out, two-run single in the New York ninth that made it 4-all. Logan Verrett (1-0), making his Orioles debut, escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the 10th.

Joey Ricard singled with one out in the 11th against Mitchell (1-1), stole second and later scored on Trumbo's two-out single.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 1

In Toronto, Russell Martin hit a go-ahead single during a three-run rally in the eighth inning as Toronto posted back-to-back wins for the first time this year.

The Blue Jays started the day at 7-17, the worst record in the majors. A loss would've left them with the poorest winning percentage in March/April in team history.

Toronto then lost starter Aaron Sanchez, the AL ERA leader last year, after just one inning because of a split fingernail. Six Toronto relievers combined to limit the Rays to one run in eight innings. J.P. Howell (1-1) got one out and Roberto Osuna finished for his third save.

Reds 5, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Joey Votto hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and Adam Duvall doubled three times and singled for Cincinnati.

The Reds had lost eight of their previous nine games.

Wandy Peralta (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh. Closer Raisel Iglesias threw two innings to record his fourth save in as many chances.

Brewers 4, Braves 3

In Milwaukee, Domingo Santana homered twice and drove in four runs as Milwaukee ended Atlanta's four-game winning streak.

Santana hit a solo shot in the fifth then added a three-run drive in the sixth inning. He has five homers this season, including three in the three-game series against Atlanta.

Freddie Freeman hit his ninth home run for the Braves.

Tigers 7, White Sox 3

In Detroit, Jose Iglesias doubled and drove in three runs to help Detroit stop a four-game losing streak.

Jordan Zimmermann (3-1) picked up a sloppy victory, allowing three runs in five-plus innings.

Todd Frazier homered for the White Sox, who had won six in a row. Miguel Gonzalez (3-1) allowed seven runs and a career-high 14 hits in six innings.

Justin Upton went deep for the Tigers and Alex Avila had three hits.

Astros 7, Athletics 2

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel threw 7 2/3 solid innings and Marwin Gonzalez hit a three-run homer to lead Houston to the victory.

Keuchel (5-0) struck out nine while allowing one run and three hits. The left-hander became the second pitcher in Astros history to get five wins in April, joining Roger Clemens in 2004.

Ken Giles earned his sixth save after getting Yonder Alonso to fly out with the bases loaded.

Twins 7, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Miguel Sano homered and drove in five runs to helpthe Twins hand the Royals their ninth straight loss.

Sano posted his fourth consecutive multihit game. He has 11 hits in his last 16 at-bats.

Sano connected in the third after Jason Hammel (0-3) walked Byron Buxton and Max Kepler. He added run-producing singles in the fourth and sixth innings.

Minnesota right-hander Phil Hughes (4-1) got the win despite allowing 10 hits and four runs in 5 2/3 innings. Brandon Kintzler yielded Whit Merrifield's two-out homer in the ninth before finishing for his seventh save.

Dodgers 5, Phillies 3

In Los Angeles, Andrew Toles hit a three-run homer and Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched 5 1/3 solid innings to help Los Angeles complete the three-game sweep.

Ryu (1-4) earned his first victory of the season in his second consecutive strong start. The veteran left-hander struck out nine and allowed one run.

Odubel Herrera hit a two-run homer for Philadelphia in the ninth. Kenley Jansen then came in and struck out Cesar Hernandez for his seventh save.

Diamondbacks 2, Rockies 0, 13 innings

In Phoenix, Daniel Descalso hit a two-run homer into the Chase Field swimming pool in the 13th inning to lift Arizona to the victory.

Descalso's drive off Jordan Lyles (0-1) salvaged the finale of the weekend series for the Diamondbacks and ended the longest scoreless game in Chase Field history.

Seven pitchers, led by Patrick Corbin's 6 1/3 innings, combined to shut out the Rockies on five hits. Randall Delgado (1-0) pitched the final two innings to get the victory, finishing a 6-4 homestand for Arizona.

Kisner-Brown, Blixt-Smith head to Zurich Classic playoff

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—Kevin Kisner deprived the die-hard fans around the rain-soaked 18th hole from seeing a winner in the Zurich Classic's new team format as darkness fell Sunday night.

Not that anyone other than Jonas Blixt and Cameron Smith seemed to mind.

Kisner chipped in for eagle from nearly 95 feet, lifting himself and teammate Scott Brown into a Monday playoff with Blixt and Smith.

"We knew we had to have it," Kisner said. "I knew (Blixt and Smith) were going to make birdie. All I was trying to do was make sure I didn't leave it short."

Kisner's clutch chip skipped on the green and hit the pin before dropping in, whipping the crowd around the final green into a frenzy while Kisner waved both arms in celebration.

"I knew I hit it a little too hard when I touched it, but I loved the line, and when it hit the flag, I said, 'Just please don't come out of there,'" Kisner recalled. "It's just one of those shots that you dream about."

It also forced the 23-year-old Smith to make a 1 1/2-foot birdie putt to remain in contention for his maiden PGA Tour victory.

"It was tough, but we fought well on the back nine," Smith said.

AP

Teammates Kevin Kisner, left, and Scott Brown await their turns to putt on the second hole during the final round of the PGA Zurich Classic golf tournament's new two-man team format at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La., Sunday, April 30, 2017.

Kisner and Brown shot a 12-under 60 in best-ball play, and Blixt and Smith had a 64 to finish at 27 under at the TPC Louisiana in the PGA Tour's first team event in 36 years. The score of 60 didn't count as a course record, but it was two strokes better than any score posted when the Zurich was a traditional stroke-play event.

"I can't say it's another day, but you've got to go home, recharge, and pretty much forget everything you've done the last four days and just go out and make a birdie or eagle or whatever to win it," Blixt said. "You've got to expect the unexpected. I don't know. We get another shot at it tomorrow, and we've just got to leave this behind."

The round finished in barely playable darkness because of a more than six-hour delay cause by thunderstorms. Kisner said he could see the flag, but perhaps only because of light from a massive video board reflecting off a water hazard.

Blixt, a Swede, and Smith, an Australian, haven't bogeyed a hole yet. They led after the second and third rounds, but had to overcome a remarkable surge by Brown and Kisner, who stormed into the lead with birdies on the first eight holes and 10 of their first 11.

Blixt made a 5-foot birdie putt on the 16th, and Smith did the same on 17th to put themselves back in the lead.

Smith then dropped a 57-yard approach on 18 within 2 feet, and they seemed to have the victory wrapped up. Instead, both teams will be back at it at 8 a.m. on the 18th hole to start the playoff.

Kisner and Brown each have one PGA Tour victory. The 33-year-old Blixt has won twice, but not since 2013.

Each player on the winning team will take home $1.02 million and earn 400 FedEx-Cup points.

Jordan Spieth and Ryan Palmer combined to birdie seven of nine holes in the middle of their round to pull as close as three strokes back with three holes to play, but couldn't quite overcome a deficit that had been as large as six strokes.

Speith's 16-foot birdie attempt rolled around the lip of the cup and out on 16. That, combined with Spieth's narrow miss from 3 feet on the 18th green Saturday, and Palmer's two misses from within 3 feet in the third round, were shots that one of the favored pairs would have to regret in an otherwise strong, fourth-place performance.

Brown and Kisner led by two strokes after their birdie on the eighth hole and maintained that gap until Smith's 34-foot putt on the undulating 12th green made it a one-stroke affair with six holes to play.

Kelly Kraft and Kevin Tway finished third at 23 under after Kraft followed up a 266-yard approach on 18 with a 22-foot eagle putt.

The tournament is the first team event on the PGA Tour since the Walt Disney World National Team Championship in 1981. The Zurich began with 80 two-player teams, with players choosing their teammates.

Players on each team alternated shots in the first and third rounds. In the second and final rounds, each player played their own balls and each team took the best score per hole. The playoff will be in the same format as the final round.

BTG

From Page 28

were the first one to collide in a make-or-break game with the former keeping its finals hopes alive after eliminating the latter. The Boys was then pitted against Holy Sett and the eventual runner-up survived to duel Zalaka for the final ticket to the championship game. Holy Sett went on to get a second crack at BTG after ousting Zalaka and was pressed to win twice in the finals to upset its favored foe. However, a well-rested BTG came out strong right in Game 1 to end Holy Sett's hopes.

In other results, All About That Ace duplicated BTG's feat by going undefeated in the women's division.

All About That Ace got a 3-0 record in the round-robin games last Sunday, downing Mix Blood, Block & Roll, and Talaabwogh. The eventual champion was then seeded first in the playoffs, while Block & Roll (2-1), Talaabwogh (1-2), and Mix Blood (0-3) finished No. 2 to 4, respectively.

All About That Ace prevailed against Mix Blood in the semis to march into the finals against Block & Roll prevailed, which knocked out Talaabwogh. In the winner-take-all finale, All About That Ace outclassed Block & Roll, 25-19, 25-23.

Meanwhile, the Saipan Baseball League, which is in charge of sending the CNMI National Team to the MBC that will be held in Palau from June 23 to July 3, will hold another fundraiser this month.

The 2017 MBC Fundraising Softball Tournament will run from May 11 to 13 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield and is open to the first co-ed 10 teams that will register and pay the $100 entrance fees.

For more information, contact Boom Castro at 287-2666/234-6672 or Jesus Iguel at 783-2232.

KANOA

From Page 28

to break the deadlock after Liu recorded his first goal in the 10th minute. Liu then made it back-to-back with his shot in the 38th minute, while Bogdan closed out for Shirley's FC-1 with his goal in the 55th. The WNT, after drawing first blood, was frustrated majority of the match, failing to cash in on their repeated attempts to score.

Shirley's FC-2 6, Thundercats 2

Shirley's FC-1 is at close second in the team standings following its win against the Thundercats.

Shirley's FC-2 improved its record to 3-0-1 after drawing a hat trick from Dhiraj Chhetri last weekend. Louis Yu, Jack Phan, and Tommy Kim registered the three other goals for the second-running team.

The Thundercats, on the other hand, got its two goals from Peter Oh and Davy Laxa. The squad is at the bottom half of the team standings, taking the No. 6 spot with its 0-2-2 slate.

KFAS 3, Sun Palace 1

Korean Football Association on Saipan is slightly ahead of the Thundercats in the rankings as the former seats at No. 5.

KFAS holds a 1-2-1 record after defeating Sun Palace (1-2-1). Edwin Kim and Jun Woo Lee gave KFAS it first win of the season after they scored against Sun Palace. Kim tallied two straight goals, earning his first in the 23rd and the second six minutes later. Lee's goal came in the 38th.

Feng Yu handed Sun Palace its lone goal and it was posted right in the first minute of the opening match in Division B last weekend.

PAVING

From Page 28

the main entrance of the facility. Yesterday, the contractor's employees were working on the first 100m portion of the track (outer lane).

"The weather is good today and hopefully it will stay that way the rest of the week so they can work on the other side of the oval. I initially thought they were pouring more asphalt, but I was told later that these are the wet pour so they are looking good at meeting the deadline (before the month ends," said Tony Rogolifoi, executive director of Northern Marianas Sports Association, which is in charge of the management and maintenance of the Oleai Sports Complex.

The wet pour needs curing time and should be flattened properly before the contractor proceeds with the next step—which is painting and placement of adhesive and pouring of rubber crumbs. When the final surface sets in, cleaning will be done before marking begins.

"The expert from Australia will be back later this month to ensure that proper marking is done and meets the standard of the International Association of Athletics Federations," Rogolifoi said yesterday in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

The track has to regain the Level II certification from IAAF to be able to host regional tournaments, such as the Oceania Area Championships, Micronesian Athletics Championships, and the track and field competition in the Pacific Games.

"We're almost there so we're asking the public to have more patience as we work on having the track back," Rogolifoi added.

It took more than three years before the track, which was built in the early 2000s, underwent resurfacing work. The project costs nearly a million ($990,000) with majority of the funds coming from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through NMHC's Community Development Block Grant, while MVA has shelled out $250,000 as part of the its sports tourism program.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	15	8	.652	—
New York	15	8	.652	—
Boston	13	11	.542	2½
Tampa Bay	12	14	.462	4½
Toronto	8	17	.320	8

Central Division

Cleveland	14	10	.583	—
Chicago	13	10	.565	½
Minnesota	12	11	.522	1½
Detroit	12	12	.500	2
Kansas City	7	16	.304	6½

West Division

Houston	16	9	.640	—
Los Angeles	14	13	.519	3
Oakland	11	14	.440	5
Texas	11	14	.440	5
Seattle	11	15	.423	5½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	17	8	.680	—
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	5
Miami	11	12	.478	5
Atlanta	10	13	.435	6
New York	10	14	.417	6½

Central Division

Chicago	13	11	.542	—
Milwaukee	13	13	.500	1
St. Louis	12	12	.500	1
Cincinnati	11	13	.458	2
Pittsburgh	11	13	.458	2

West Division

Colorado	16	10	.615	—
Arizona	16	11	.593	½
Los Angeles	14	12	.538	2
San Diego	11	16	.407	5½
San Francisco	9	17	.346	7

ZURICH CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS SCORES

Fourth Round

AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP)—Scores Friday at the Zurich Classic, a PGA Tour event at the 7,425-yard, par-72 TPC Louisiana course.

Blixt/Smith	67-62-68-64—261
Kisner/Brown	70-64-67-60—261
Kraft/Tway	71-63-70-61—265
Spieth/Palmer	66-66-70-64—266
Dufner/Kizzire	69-64-73-63—269
B. Koepka/C. Koepka	69-65-73-62—269
Watson/Holmes	73-64-68-64—269
Cabrera/Etulain	70-63-71-65—269
Thomas/Cauley	70-64-74-61—269
C. Hoffman/Watney	67-65-69-68—269
Schauffele/Ridings	68-64-73-65—270
Murray/Percy	70-67-71-62—270
Stuard/Stroud	68-64-71-67—270
Lingmerth/Lee	72-62-72-65—271
Stricker/Kelly	68-66-72-65—271
Reed/Cantlay	68-62-75-66—271
Harman/Wagner	71-64-72-64—271
Van Aswegen/Goosen	73-60-72-66—271
Jacobson/Wilcox	71-63-73-64—271
M. Hoffmann/Villegas	72-62-71-66—271
Thompson/Wilkinson	71-66-68-66—271
Barnes/Jones	70-67-70-65—272
Hearn/DeLaet	71-66-72-63—272
Grace/Oosthuizen	70-67-70-66—273
Henry/Hoge	69-67-71-66—273
Merritt/Streb	69-62-74-68—273
Cejka/Kjeldsen	70-62-75-66—273
Choi/Wi	67-64-76-66—273
Bryan/Blaum	71-65-71-67—274
Stanley/Ruffels	66-66-77-65—274
Reifers/Johnston	71-66-73-64—274
Ogilvy/Poulter	69-66-71-69—275
Bozzelli/Poston	70-66-73-66—275
Swafford/English	70-67-73-65—275
Matsuyama/Tanihara	69-66-75-65—275
M. Kim/Hagy	72-64-71-69—276

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FA Boys and Girls Cup 2017 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Football Club Girls U15 players and coaches pose with the perpetual trophy after downing Kanoa FC-1 U12 in the finals of the FA Boys and Girls Cup 2017 held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

A Kanoa FC-1 U12 player dribbles in front of Shirley's Football Club Girls U15 defenders.

A Kanoa FC-1 U12 player, right, beats a Shirley's Football Club Girls U15 player to the ball.

Shirley's Football Club Girls U15 and Kanoa FC-1 U12 players collide.

Kanoa FC-1 U12's Jim Maniago receives a pass from his teammate.

Kanoa FC-1 U12's Jim Maniago, right, stays close on defense against Shirley's Football Club Girls U15's Jerlyn Castillo.

Shirley's Football Club Girls U15 and Kanoa FC-1 U12 players battle for possession.

Jazz flatten Clippers, win 1st-round series 4-3

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nationals maul Mets, Red Sox beat Cubs

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Kanoa, Shirley's FC-1 share Division B lead

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Kanoa Football Club player, right, beats two Matansa FC players to the ball during the second half of their Division B game in the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa FC and Shirley's FC-1 posted contrasting wins in the M-League over the weekend at the Hopwood Junior High School Field for a two-way tie in Division B lead.

Kanoa FC edged Matansa FC last Sunday, 1-0, while Shirley's FC-1 eased past the CNMI Women's National Team last Saturday, 4-1. Kanoa and Shirley's FC-1 now have similar 3-1-0 win-draw-loss records to share the top spot in the eight-squad field. Matansa and WNT remain winless with the former dropping to a 0-1-3 card and the latter falling to a 0-0-4 slate to occupy the last two places in the team standings.

Jang Ha Kim scored the lone goal for Kanoa in the 50th minute to hand his squad its third win in four games. With Kim's goal, Kanoa now has made 13 and has given up only six—the second least goals allowed in the division so far behind Shirley's FC-1's four. Kanoa had the most goals after four games, just ahead by one against Shirley's FC-1 and Shirley's FC-2.

Shirley's FC-1 added four goals to its tally sheet after getting a pair from Jun Liu in their victory over the WNT. Fradel Sedillo and Wesley Bogdan registered the two other goals with the former putting Shirley's FC-1 on the board early after knocking in one just two minutes into the match.

Sedillo's goal tied the match as earlier in the first minute Britally Wally gave the WNT a goal. Shirley's FC-1 went on

See KANOA on Page 26

BTG, All About That Ace triumph

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A BTG player goes up for a spike during the first set of their game against Holy Sett in the 2017 Micronesian Baseball Classic Fundraising Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

All About that Ace and BTG swept their games in the 2017 Micronesian Baseball Classic Fundraising Volleyball Tournament to rule the weekend competition held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

BTG completed its domination in the men's division contest after beating Holy Sett in Game 1 of the finals last Sunday, 25-9, 25-17.

Zalaka, Blue Blood, and The Boys were the other teams entered in the men's division and they played in a round-robin format last Saturday to determine the rankings in the playoffs. BTG ended up undefeated in four games in the preliminary to get the top seeding, while Holy Sett and The Boys had similar 2-2 cards with the latter winning the tiebreak and getting the No. 2 seed. Blue Blood and Halaka also earned identical records (1-3), but the former prevailed in the tiebreak to place No. 4, going into the playoffs.

A double-elimination format was implemented in the playoff round with the top-ranked BTG getting a bye in the opener last Sunday. BTG then faced Holy Sett in the quarterfinals and took the victory to arrange a semis duel against Zalaka. Holy Sett downed The Boys to set meet BTG in the next round, while Zalaka beat Blue Blood to arrange a battle with the eventually champion for the first finals berth.

BTG went on to keep its streak and edged Zalaka to get the finals ticket in the winner's bracket, while the four other teams dropped to the loser's pool and fought for the remaining finals seat.

The Boys and Blue Blood

See BTG on Page 26

Paving of Oleai track ongoing

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The wet pour surface has been laid at the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval and is expected to be completed early next week.

The wet pour surface is a blended mix of black rubber granules bound together and represents the second layer of the track oval. Contractor Tang's Corp. and its employees have started putting the wet pour last week and have completed about 50m of the 400m track or the curb portion (both sides) of the oval at

See PAVING on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Workers pave the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval with black rubber granules yesterday.